FROM COVENT GARDEN TO **WAITING TABLE** The manager now taking the orders

THE EYE

THE GREATEST **MUSICAL EVER** The man behind the West End revival of Show Boat

ARTS, PAGE 13



PREMIER LEAGUE OF MEMOIRS Sniping, score – settling and drama in confessions from Number 10

WORK DATE Men are finally making the effort



Newspaper of the Year for photographs

Wednesday 29 April 1998 45p (IR 50p)

Today's news

Couple held over beating

A COUPLE were being questioned by police last night after a 12-year-old boy suffering from scores of injuries was discovered tied to a bannister during a police raid on a house in Poole, Dorser. The youngster had suffered violent beatings and was left with a fractured skull, wrists and ankle injuries and a dislocated iaw

Patten praises **Ulster deal**

THE former Hong Kong governor, Chris Patten, rejected suggestions that he was taking on a "poisoned chalice" by becoming chairman of the commission which would review policing in Ulster. He said: "Other people in Northern Ireland and the British government and the Irish government have been extremely brave in reaching this agreement. I think anybody who believes in a free, prosperous, democratic future in Northern Ireland should do what they can to assist."

Life without work

UNLESS the education system undergoes immediate and revolutionary change, "millions" of Britons will be condemned to a life without work. The Government and business are showing a "worrying lack of understanding about the pace and extent of change", according to one of the country's foremost independent think-tanks. Page 8

Campbell's sick rag

A SCAI HING attack on "the vomit" of the Daily Telegraph has been delivered by the Prime Minister's official spokesman, Alastair Campbell. His antioathy towards the right-wing broadsheet has been prompted by its negative coverage of the Northern Ireland peace process - even after the Good Friday agreement was struck.

Paedophiles refused

AT least one in ten probation hostels are refusing to accept sex offenders because of fears of vigilante attacks, it was revealed yesterday. A government inspector warned that it may soon become impossible to find supervised places for potentially dangerous criminals, including paedophiles, because of the recent violent demonstrations. Page 2

Lawyers cash in

A "TOP 40" list of the barristers and firms of solicitors that earn the most from legal aid work reveals that some lawyers can make more than £500,000 a year, while one company was paid £8.5m. The statistics from the Lord Chancellor's Department were criticised yesterday by the Bar Council as misleading and inaccurate.

Business news

Biotech drug row

BRITISH Biotech's former head of clinical research last night launched a damning criticism of the company's two main products, as the row between Dr Adrian Millar, who was sacked last week, and his former employers descended into an ugly war of

Sports news

White trailing

THE Jimmy White bandwagon was running off course at the Embassy World Snooker Championship in Sheffield yesterday. Despite the vociferous support of the majority of the crowd, White trailed 7-1 to Ronnie O'Sullivan after the first session of their quarter-final. O'Sullivan today needs just six frames out of the remaining 17 to claim his place in the semi-finals.





If you ever doubted that politicians need spin doctors, here's the proof

Style file: Tory leader William Hague and actress Su Pollard winning Top Tie Wear awards from the Guild of British Tie Makers in London yesterday Hague's euro warning, page 6; Leading article, page 16 Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Poisons ruin wildlife paradise

By Michael McCarthy on the Coto Donana and Elizabeth Nash in Seville

SPAIN is facing an ecological disaster at the Coto Donana national from the Spanish government that a major leak of toxic waste had been controlled.

With heavy rain lashing the area near Seville, they fear the residue from the mining waste, laden with lead, arsenic, cyanide and other heavy metals, will permeate the

supply could could last 30 years, according to Miguel Ferrer, director

area and blight it for decades.

And the effects of the contamof the Donana Biological Station, visible and tempting.

who leads a team of scientific researchers in the park.

water and sludge that burst through a dam on Saturday has been diverted away from swampserve, despite earlier assurances of toxic mud left behind in the countryside beyond could be fatal of wetland birds, said Alejandro Sanchez, director of SEO, the Sociedad Espanola de Omitologia.

Already the storks, herons and other waders have begun to feed on the thousands of fish, frogs and crabs and smaller creatures that have been killed by the pollution ination of an underground water that swept down the Guadiamar river from the mine at Aznakollar, and are now lying in the mud,

The birds would be taking the highly toxic dead animals back to de Larramendi, insists that the area whose extent I cannot predict."

there is a natural channel of toxipark, Europe's biggest nature re- ing the park directly, the vast area city into the park through the birds themselves," he said. "They normally go out of the national for Donana's spectacular colonies park to feed on these areas and now they are being attracted to the new mud with all its dead fish and frogs and crabs. Yet each one of

> these is a piece of poison." Donana's birds of prey, from the Spanish imperial eagle down. would be affected as they ate the birds that had fed on the mud. "A chain of toxicity will build up in the park. It's very, very likely that many week or two weeks."

Although the contaminated feed their young, Dr Sanchez said. surrounding the reserve must be

waters now gushing into the sea at the Guadalquivir estuary were not strongly polluted.

"This means that the poisons have been deposited in the soil. Apart from the immediate impact which is already bad enough, what worries me more is that because we have diverted the course of the contaminated Guadiamar river, the Donana can no longer receive water from it and it will be constantly underwatered. Depriving species will be affected in the next the wetlands of their natural supplies of water will have long-term

"The polluted water has been cleaned to prevent the destruction mediate action plan for the wetlands in Europe. buffer zone for the wetlands. He clude the removal of all the dead was particularly worried that the fish and other creatures, and the size, variety and rarity of its bird mud itself. "We are trying to convince the administration how urgent it is," Dr Sanchez said. "We think if no action is taken in the next few days there will be a dis-

> There is also great concern that the local groundwater might be contaminated by the toxic waste, which would be a longlasting problem.

aster for the birds of Donana."

The park director, Alberto Ruiz effects on the ecological structure, the marshlands at the mouth of the river Guadalquivir in south-west The only hope would be an im- Spain and is one of the largest

The pollution threat is so potentially catastrophic because of the colonies, which make it a place of pilgrimage for birdwatchers from all over the world. Nesting in the park are - among much else - 600 pairs of purple herons, 400 pairs of spoonbills, 400 pairs of little egrets and 1,000 pairs of the large, coot-like purple gallinules - the sight of any one of which would be a notable "twitch" for a British

birdwatcher. Toxic disaster, page 12

Shearer is out of the World Cup squad

By Andrew Burncombe

THE RUMOURS are true, Alan Shearer and Gazza have been sensationally left out of the England squad for this summer's World Cup finals. Well, sort of.

While every England fan hopes the two players will be leading by example in France this June, there is one place they will not be appearing - the Panini World Cup sticker book.

The stickers and sticker books But for the first time in the 36 years that Panini have been producing stickers to mark football's greatest celebration, the company has failed to secure agreement with some of the players involved.

It means fans across Europe tearing open their packets of stickers will find no pictures of the rugged Geordie striker who wears No 9, or the slightly less rugged Geordie who wears a daft grin.

The Professional Footballers Association (PFA) yesterday confirmed the players' absence but dis- said: "We went to every length to missed reports it was because there had been a disagreement over fees. "The situation was that Alan had other contractual commitments that meant he could not vice-chairman of the Football Suptake part in the project," said George Berry, the PFA's com-



Alan Shearer: Ruled out by

mercial executive. "I don't know what those commitments were but the reports that it was about money are wrong. Alan Shearer have gone on sale priced at £2.49. flies the flag for the association and he often does so for barely anything."

He said Paul Gascoigne was not included because they had been unable to contact his agent in time. Because he was playing in Scotland at the time, he was not under the auspices of the PFA. The sticker business was start-

ed by Giuseppe Panini in the 1960s, though the company has since been bought out by the US. group Marvel. A statement issued by the company yesterday

ensure every player was included." That may be the case but it will be of little consolation to the players' legions of fans. Sheila Spiers, porters Association, said: "I think the kids will be very disappointed."

Vaccine may herald end of the dentist

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

the teeth can provide protection may be all that is needed to prevent against dental decay for up to six decay. Professor Lehner said there mouths, scientists disclosed yes-

The discovery could spare miland threaten the future of toothpaste manufacturers. Researchers who have spent 25 years searching gums healthy, he said. for a vaccine, said it was safe and effective and could be produced eas-

Asked if this heralded the end of tooth decay, Professor Tom Lehner, who led the research team, said: "I hope so. I think it is the beginning of the end."

preventing them from sticking to had shown no interest. the teeth. The bacteria, called staphylococcus mutans, break down sugar to form acid which etches the

tooth enamel and allows decay. A trial of the vaccine, published in Nature Medicine, in which it was painted on the teeth of 15 volun-mitted diseases, including HIV, and teers twice a week for three weeks, against food-poisoning bacteria showed that it provided protection

against the bacteria for four months. Further observations by the research team suggest that as little A LIQUID vaccine dripped onto as two applications every six months was a "strong possibility" that the vaccine could eventually be applied at home but a larger study was needlions the pain of the dentist's drill ed to confirm the findings, which could take four to five years. Regular toothbrushing would confrom Guy's hospital dental school, tinue to be necessary to keep the

Although tooth decay has declined since the introduction of fluily and cheaply in large quantities. oride toothpaste, it still affects half of children by the age of five, and three-quarters of all 17-year-olds. Guy's dental school has signed

an agreement with a Californian company, Planet Biotechnology, to The vaccine is made by genet- produce the vaccine and there are ically modifying tobacco plants to plans for a trial in San Francisco. produce an antibody. In the mouth The professor said he was "rather the antibody attaches itself to the sad" that the discovery had gone bacteria that cause tooth decay, to California but British companies

The technique of obtaining antibodies from genetically engineered plants opened up the possibility of tackling other infections. Professor Lehner said antibodies might be produced against sexually transsuch as salmonella and E.coli.



INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 CROSSWORDS, P30 AND EYE, P10 SPORT, P27-30 TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 FULL CONTENTS, P2

TOMORROW

ason Donovan: from Neighbours to Rocky Horror

Too tired to teach: the stress of being an academic

Our architect in the north: Michael Wilford's new look for the Liverpool Tate

Gallery



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Pupils given useless tasks

By Judith Judd September Edition

TEACHERS are wasting their pupils' time by making them build pyramids out of eggboxes and Greek temples out of kitchen rolls, Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools said last night.

In a lecture to the right-wing think-tank, Politeia, Mr Woodhead attacked child-centred learning and complained that too many teachers were still spending most of their lessons in activities which contributed little or nothing to learning. In some classrooms he vis-

ited, children were colouring in objects beginning with B and being asked to spend time standing by the road counting cars going past.

Mr Woodhead, a strong supporter of traditional teaching methods and whole-class teaching, said that too many teachers. particularly in primary schools, believed "that the teacher's job is to teach children rather than subjects and that each child is unique in his or her intellectual and emotional needs". That means that they had to find ways of keeping the rest of the class busy while they spent time with different children.

"If we want to make better use of resources and achieve greater value for money we have, above all else, to question the beliefs about education and teaching which drive the minute-to-minute decisions that teachers take in the classroom."

The willingness among teachers to question cherished beliefs was growing, he said, but a good number of high profile figures were resisting change.

Child-centred teaching was expensive, he suggested. Teachers were spending time making resources which it would be cheaper to buy. These resources were often only needed because teachers insisted on teaching individual children for most of the time instead of teaching the whole class.



Desirable residence: Hill Hall at Theydon Mount, in Essex, for which English Heritage is seeking a long-term tenant. Listed as Grade I and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the Tudor mansion has just undergone a £2m exterior restoration after being used by the RAF in the Second World War and as a women's open prison - when it apparently accommodated Christine Keeler of the Profumo affair fame

Probation hostels reject sex offenders for fear of reprisals

By Jason Bennetto Come Correspondent

AT LEAST one in ten probation hostels is refusing to accept sex offenders because of fears of vigilante attacks, it was revealed vesterday. A government inspector

warned that it may soon become impossible to find supervised places for potentially dangerous criminals, including paedophiles, because of the recent violent demonstrations.

Inflammatory media coverage of the convicted paedophiles and child killers Robert Oliver and Sidney Cooke was partly blamed for a series of protests and pickets outside hostels. Graham Smith, the Chief In-

spector of Probation, estimat-

ed that about 10 of the 101 probation hostels in England and Wales were refusing to take sex offenders. Many of the other hostels are also restricting their intake to offenders living loeally. The probation accom-. modation is semi-secure, with curfews from 10.30pm to 7am and strict supervision about what offenders are allowed to

watch and read.

Probation chiefs also report that many more voluntary and church- run hostels have also banned people convicted of sex crimes because of the recent public backlash. Mr Smith said: "It's going to eventually be very hard, if not impossible, to place them [sex offenders] if we are not careful."

He added that the public and media reaction was par-

ticularly frustrating because a study by HM Inspectorate of Probation discovered that the Probation Service was doing an excellent job in supervising sex offenders in the community and keeping them from committing further crimes.

Of the 9,000 sex offenders being supervised by the Probation Service at the end of 1996 only 430 were housed in secure hostels as a condition of their release from jail. About half of all the offenders - 4,700 - were in jail, with the remainder on community penalties.

Predatory paedophiles such as Sidney Cooke, who recently provoked rioting in Bristol, made up a tiny minority of sex offenders. Mr Smith warned that local

residents who attacked or pick-

eted probation hostels to try to increasingly unwilling to house protect their children were in fact achieving the "exact opposite" as offenders could not. be as closely supervised when living in the community.

Gill Mackenzie, vice-chair of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said the problem of finding places for paedophiles were worsened by a growing reluctance by hostels to take offenders from outside their immediate area. "They don't want to be-

come dumping grounds for the rest of the region," she said.

The report also said that it was even barder to find homes for paedophiles once they had moved out of probation hostels at the end of their period of supervision - and council housing departments were becoming

them. It warned that some sex offenders were placed in "particularly unsuitable blocks of flats or houses", because councils were not given enough information about the residents.

As reported in The Independent on Sunday, the Inspectorate expressed particular concern about a "gap" in provision for dealing with the 1.200 convicted adolescent sex offenders aged under-17.

Lack of a national programme for teenagers has meant that the authorities were failing to identify and treat paedophiles in the making.

Joyce Quin, the prisons' minister with responsibility for probation, promised that the review of the youth justice system would examine this problem.

Child beaten for 3 weeks

By Diana Blamires

A COUPLE were being questioned by police last night after 🧍 a 12-year-old boy suffering from scores of injuries was discovered tied to a bannister during a police raid on a house.

The youngster had suffered violent beatings and was left with a fractured skull, damage to wrists and ankles, and a dislocated jaw.

Police and paramedics were called to the house in Poole. Dorset, on Sunday night. Sources involved in the operation said they had never seen such a serious case of child

It is believed that the boy's ordeal, which included starvation and being made to stand on drawing pins, may have lasted or up to three weeks.

m p! ccik

He was tied so tightly to the bannister that the circulation to his wrists had been cut off.

The ambulance service confirmed vesterday that paramedics were called to an address in Poole at 10.05pm on

The boy was taken to Poole General Hospital for treatment. One nurse was reduced to tears by the sight of his battered body. The case is being investi-

gated by detectives at Poole CID, who raided the address atter receiving a tip-off from a member of the public. Two other children at the

house have been taken to a place of safety by social workers and placed in care. A man and a woman in

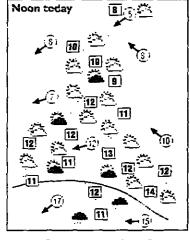
their 30s were arrested at the scene and are being questioned by police. Investigating officers were granted a warrant of further detention by magistrates at Poole vesterday. Detective Chief Inspector

Geoff Watts, of Dorset police, said the boy was being treated for a number of injuries".

He added: "We are in the middle of investigating the cir-

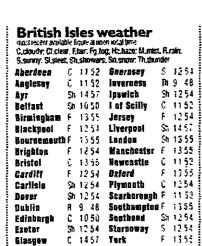
vapour than cold air, so cre-

WEATHER

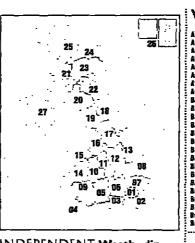


South-west England and southern Wales will be wet. However, the rain will start to peter out from the north with skies brightening in most parts during the late. afternoon and evening. Central southern England. mostly cloudy day with rain lifely for a time. Elsewhere around the country there will be a modure of sunny spelloland showers, some of the showers rather heavy inland, with the best of the sunshine foliards coasts.

Outlook for the next few days Thursday will be a cool, biseazy day as north-easterly annds become established across the Uk. Many nerts will be dry with come sunshine, the best of this in the west but there will be a lew light showers in central and southern parts with druzzle likely along the north-eact coact of Scotland. There will be more purchine around. on Friday with only the odd light shower in a lew carts. and this will remain the general case for Safurday



Air quality London S England Wales C England M England Scenand N Ireland London S *Engla*nd



High tides AM HT ไรเหตุลก Lighting-up times

INDEPENDENT Weatherline For the talled specials and **0.891 50.09** to bused by the tool digits for why area indicated by the above mad (special) the fact (fines (bits charge) of \$10 cm and all traces (1.4).

World weather must recent available figure at most local brisk

Atlantic chart, noon today moving and will fill. Low F will also fill as it

What if something goes wrong



WILLIAM **HARTSTON** WEATHER WISE

THE weather has settled into a deceitful pattern this week. the air. A spokesman de-Clear blue skies and sunshine send us out in the morning smells to hit Britain for years. without raincoat or umbrella, then clouds build up in the early afternoon and we get ing practices and an unusual soaked in thunderstorms on airstream: farms were being our way home.

never seem to learn. The and an easterly wind wafted morning warmth of the Sun its odour over our shores. seems so reassuring that we forget the consequences of turn your nose tentatively that warmth: the heated earth eastwards and, if the wind is radiates to warm the air. in your face, sniff carefully, which can absorb more water. April is the smelliest month.

ates the conditions for eval oration of surface water. The warm air then rises and cools. forming clouds as the water condenses again. And before you know it. there's a flash of lightning, a rumble of thunder and you're running for cover again. Next time you are soaked.

however, just remember that the weather at this time of year can be even less pleasant. Three years ago, in the last week of April in 1995, the Met Office received dozens of calls, from places stretching from Kent to Birmingham, complaining of a vile smell in scribed it as "one of the worst

The problem was traced to a combination of Dutch tarmfertilised with a slurry of an-Somehow it's a lesson we innal dung and cattle urine,

So next time you go out,

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

"How much can we borrow."		"What is the difference between fixed and variable interest rates?"	
Four question	_		vered
before buying	g a ho	me.	Midland Bank
		You can also call	Member HSBC Grown

"What types of mortgage are there"

Are you looking to move belove August7 (Yes 2 No (please tick) Are you a first time buyer?) Yes o 120 (please dolg. Are you a stidland customer 🔲 Yes 🗍 No (please tidd, 11 so please supply your sort code 410 _____ I would like to be contacted



end of a itting an

Royal Ballet addict with a surprising

passion for rugby LORD EATWELL, once Neil Kinnock's economics adviser, later Labour's economic spokesman in the House of Lords and now President of Queen's College, Cam-

writes David Lister. But the appointment of John Earwell yesterday to chair the Royal Ballet board will not surprise his students at Queen's College. He famously sent them to dance classes

bridge, is at first sight an unlikely

chairman of the Royal Ballet. Rug-

by football is his chief recreation,

to be trained by a ballerina. "They now know they have muscles where they didn't think any existed," he said, "and their results have improved" - although he concedes the credit for that to their rugby coach rather than their dance coach.

In his first interview as Royal Ballet chairman given exclusively to The Independent, Lord Eatwell promised a new approach aimed at getting more young people in to watch dance and widening the education remit of the company. But ballet prices which usually go up to around £50 did not strike him as unreasonable.

"For a three-hour evening you should pay 30 per cent more than you pay to see Chelsea for one and a half hours," he said. "The people are the same age, they are just as athletic and you get music too. But, yes, we have to bring in people who have never been before."

Lord Eatwell's own conversion to ballet came in 1987, "When my 19-year-old daughter Tatiana was six ... the Royal Ballet came to Cambridge and performed in a tent on Jesus Green. I took her to see Swan Lake. It was the first time I had been to the ballet ... I thought it was the most wonderful thing I had ever seen. I became an addict and needed a regular fix ... The first thing that

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz struck me forcibly that day was 'my

IN THE NEWS LORD EATWELL

God, how can they do that': the sheer physical virtuosity of the company, and then I got more involved in the ideas in dance."

Lord Eatwell says he is looking forward to the company having a bome and rehearsal space in Covent Garden for the first time when the Royal Opera House reopens next year. The Royal Ballet will have five performance and rehearsal studios; there will be open rehearsals and space dedicated to new and experimental work.

His new approach is characterised by the board members he has chosen: "I wanted to put together a board of people with professional expertise to bring to the service of the Royal Ballet."

And so he has choreographer and community dance expert Christopher Bannerman: promoter Lilian Hochhauser; dance film producer Ross McGibbon; broadcaster Susannah Simons, and the president of the Royal Academy of Dancing, Dame Antoinette Sibley, as well as musician and choreographer Kenneth Tharp.

Also yesterday, the Royal Opera board under composer Michael Berkeley was widening its expertise appointing such people as singer Thomas Allen and Royal Academy of Arts exhibitions organiser Norman Rosenthal.

Lord Eatwell said of the Royal Ballet: "It is our responsibility to show that we use our public subsidy effectively and present an exciting programme, and that we are changing peoples lives like mine was changed in a tent in Jesus Green."

tempt to gain support for the Gov-John Eatwell went to grammar school in Swindon, His wife, Hélène, is French and ernment's plan to reform the legal of Russian origin. They have two sons and one daughter. Lord Eatwell, who has Lord Irvine plans to end legal aid taught economics at Cambridge since job where their productivity is below their pofor personal injury cases this summer 1970; helped to set-up the institute of Pub- tential - for instance, a qualified accountant who and replace it with conditional "no lic Policy Research, a Labour thinktank. can only find work selling hamburgers.

FROM SWINDON TO THINKTANK:

ON 'REAL' UNEMPLOYMENT: Last year he claimed the "real" level of unemplayment was 12 rather than 6 per cent. There is a great deal of "disguised" unemployment, he said. He defines this as all the people doing a

RUGBY - HOUSE OF LORDS STYLE: At the age of 53, Lord Eatwell still plays rugby for the Lords and Commons team. But this is rugby for chaps used to good lunches. The team plays games of four 15-minute sessions with intervals between each session for them to get their breath

ON BALLET AND COOL BRITANNIA: "I have had discussions with the Foreign Office who are very keen to promote the Royal Ballet and dance generally. So watch this space. One aspect of ballet and dance is that it is a universal language. I don't accept that the Royal Ballet is ignored at all in Cool Britannia, It's a vital force."

Virus fears lead scientists to hold back on pig transplants

SCIENTISTS planning the world's first xenotransplant from a genetically modified pig said yesterday they would only go erating officer of Imutran, told ahead if studies showed pa-tients already treated with living

be Top laywers

get £500,000

We a year from

gal aid and other sources, but after

running costs for his two sets of

chambers and other deductions he

expected to pay tax on about

protend that's other than a com-

comparable with a partner in a

modest firm of accountants or a con-

sultant surgeon. I'm a senior pro-

work in my professional field - mur-

der cases, frauds, child abuse and sev-

firm was Nottingham based Freeth

Cartwright Hunt Dicks, which was

licitors and barristers involved in

complex multi-party actions. The

Irwin Mitchell, a high-profile

personal injury practice with offices

in London, the Midlands and York-

shire, was the second biggest-earn-

ing solicitors' firm, netting payments

public affairs committee, said: "These

figures are open to very serious mis-

interpretation, particularly by those

determined to undermine the Bar.

Good barristers resent crude at-

tempts to pillory them, instead of a

fair examination of the true position."

sents solicitors, said the figures "did

The Law Society, which repre-

Lawyers believe that the publi-

cation of the figures by Geoff Hoon,

junior minister at the Lord Chan-

cellor's Department, in response to

a parliamentary question, is an at-

Nigel Pascoe QC, chair of the Bar's

firm employs 160 lawyers.

of more than £2.6m

The biggest earning solicitor's

en figure personal injury cases."

He said: "I don't think I would

legal aid

firms of solicitors that earn the most - £190,000.

£500,000 a year, while one compa- fortable income." But he added: "It's

barristers and 20 solicitors' firms who, fessional doing the most serious

\$£190,000 to more than £500,000 - is. paid more than £8.5m. But much of considered by some as an attempt by ... this cash was passed on to other so-

Lawson QC, currently counsel to the not add anything to the debate on

a total of £265,000 last year, from le- win, no fee agreements.

legal aid".

A "TOP 40" list of the barristers and -

from legal aid work reveals that some

lawyers can make more than

Statistics from the Lord Chan-

cellor's Department disclosing the 20

reap most from the legal aid fund

were immediately criticised yester-

day by the Bar Council as mislead-

The publication of the totals -

which range for individuals from

Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, to

"soften up" the legal profession and

public in the run up to proposed cuts

and in several cases incomplete, do

however provide an interesting in-

sight into what some of the legal

high-fliers can earn from public

Jones, QC, and Malcolm Swift, QC,

who earned at least £500,000 from

legal aid in the year 1996-97. Mr

Jones, 49, was head of Kevin

Maxwell's legal team during his

fraud trial - said to be the most ex-

pensive criminal trial yet. Other

big-earning barristers were Edmund

Stephen Lawrence inquiry, who was

paid more than £450,000, and lead-

ing defence counsel Ronald Thwaites, who earned more than £400,000.

All the figures could include work

done in previous years and may omit

money owed from on-going cases.

barristers named as a high earner, de-

nied receiving more than £350,000

in legal aid in the previous financial

year. He said he had actually earned

Timothy Raggatt QC, one of the

The two top earners are Alun

The figures, although complex

in the £1.4bn legal aid budget.

ny was paid £8.5m.

ing and inaccurate.

Hundreds of people worldwide, many in Russia and East- first human trials involving ern Europe, have been treated transgenic pig livers. These temporarily with tissue or or- would be used as a temporary gans taken from pigs while "liver dialysis" machine, attheir own organs recovered or tached to the patient outside the while they waited for a human body for up to 72 hours, allowtransplant. Skin, livers, spleens ing extra time to find a human and kidneys have been used in transplant. the experiments - in all cases (except skin) outside the body

but attached to it. company which has bred a herd ical trial involving the transplant of genetically modified pigs for of kidneys, and, later, hearts. tifled and laboratory studies had

150 of these patients for evidence of viral transmission. The results are to be present-

ed to a scientific meeting in July. Dr Corinne Savill, chief opa press briefing yesterday that if the findings of this and othpig tissue remained uninfected er laboratory studies currently under way were positive, the

regulatory authority set up by the Government last year for the Cambridge biotechnology approval to move to a small clin-

examining blood samples from xenotransplantation sees this as tial to infect humans. A virus

a muck fix." Ms Savill said the first hu-

cautious projection than was of- harm. "Pigs have a similar virus

man transplants could take place within five years - a more fered at the company's last press conference in 1995 when the scientists behind Imutran, David White, an immunologist, and John Wallwork, a transplant company would move to the surgeon, reported their success in transplanting pig hearts into monkeys and said they hoped to begin the first human

trials by the end of 1996. Yesterday's meeting was a subdued affair at which Professor Robin Weiss of the Institute of Cancer Research; the If these were successful, the first scientist to warn of the risk company would apply to the of transmission of pig viruses, potentially far more devastating.

was invited by the company to spell out his fears. Professor Weiss said there were four pig retroviruses iden-

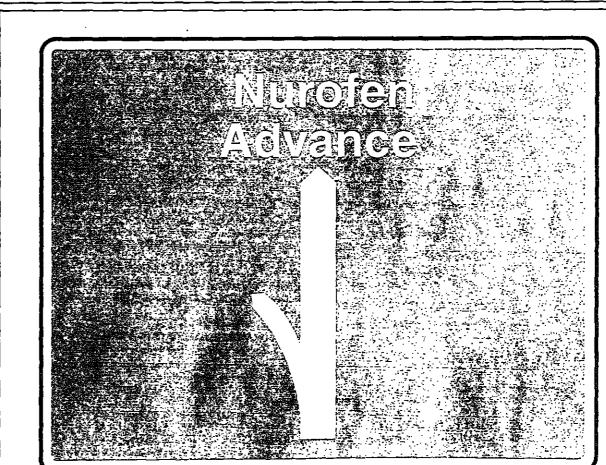
which caused leukaemia in gibbons had been shown by genetic analysis to be derived from rodents, in whom it caused no that could come out. That is

John Eatwell: Seeking professional expertise in board members

what we are worried about." Retroviruses cannot be bred out of the pigs because they are inserted in the DNA of the cell. Furthermore, genetic modification of the pigs to prevent re-jection of their organs by humans might make viral transmission more likely. The risk to patients in the trials would probably be outweighed by potential benefit but the risk of a virus spreading into the human pop-

ulation, although remote, was Professor Weiss said: "If we are doing fancy things to make the transplant work, are we upping the ante in terms of infection? We don't know but we want

to be wise before the event."



"Nobody who is serious about shown that two had the potenuse in human transplants, are MPs call for ban on sale of Mary Bell book

NINE Labour MPs have called for a book Brown, aged four, and three-year-old Briwritten with the help of child-killer Mary an Howe.

the law to stop criminals from profiting from their crimes through book deals. But a Commons motion tabled by Labour MPs yesterday went much further,

saying that the book by Gitta Screen, should he banned altogether. The first instalment of a serialisation of the book, to be published by Macmillan, is due to appear at the weekend, and a row has been provoked by the fact that Ms. Screns has admitted she paid Bell for

her help in producing the book, Cries Unthat payments of £50,000 have been given under an assumed identity.

to Mary Bell, a child killer convicted in 1968

of murdering two children." The murdered children were Martin

Yesterday's motion said such a payment lack Straw, the Home Secretary, said on "is deeply offensive to the general popu-Monday that he would consider changing. . lation and to the parents of the victims, as Mary Bell should not be permitted to prof-

> The MPs urged Mr Straw "to take action to ensure that other criminals are not able to make money from their Lindsay Hoyle, Labour MP for Chorley and the motion's main sponsor, said yes-

it from these tragedies."

to profit from these horrific murders. "It is extremely insulting to the parents of the victims of these murders to see that the person convicted of killing their child benefit of that child, the courts have given She has refused to say how much mon-, is allowed to cash in on their atrocities." her complete protection from any form of cy was involved, although yesterday's Com- Mary Bell, who was released from prison public identification, with an injunction mous motion noted "with disgust reports in 1980, now lives in the North of England known as a "Mary Bell Order".

terday. "I am disgusted Mary Bell is able



She has a child of her own, and for the

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Peace drive too late for an innocent young man



The body of Ciaran Heffron being taken through his home village of Crumlin, Co Antrim, yesterday. A Catholic student, he was murdered on Friday by suspected loyalist gunmen

Photograph: Brian Harris

By Kim Sengupta

IT WAS a busy day in the drive for a settlement in Northern Ireland yesterday, with the ANC and Chris Patten in the news. But it was all too late for Ciaran Heffron.

The latest casualty of sectarian hatred was buried by his family at his home village in a ceremony which echoed the sorrow and anger of his community at the waste of a life when peace seems so near. The 22-year-old student is believed to have been the victim of loyalist terrorists out looking for a Catholic to kill.

His funeral at the village of Crumlin, Co Antrim, was attended by Catholics and Protestants. A thousand walked in silence behind the cortège, the church of Mater Dei was full, and hundreds stood outside in the rain to hear the parish priest say Mr Heffron's murderers were "inspired by the

Devil" to do what they did.

ly hours of Saturday as he took that the reason for the death cowardly and vicious. And, in- der even more heinous is that any serious trouble between the a short cut home from his local pub after a night out with friends. His killers are believed to be from the Loyalist Volunteer Force, although it has not claimed responsibility.

Father John O'Sullivan, who

was religion. "Sometime on Friday evening some evil men decided that a Catholic young young man." man should die in Crumlin. The only reason for the killing was his religion. God had given these men the gift of free will, knew Ciaran, a University of to do something good and no-

the decision to kill an innocent Michael Dallat, said that in the

The Bishop of Down and Connor, The Most Reverend minds of the gunmen "Ciaran was guilty, guilty of being a Catholic. What makes his mur-

spired by the Devil, they made it was done when so many people in this land are fervently praying for peace. We cannot, dare not, give up hope. We must sectarianism and pray for a just and lasting peace."

Crumlin is a mixed com-

communities. Almost all the shops in the village were shut as a mark of respect, and the Ulster Unionist Mayor, Paddy continue to pray for an end to Marks, was among those at the service. Also there was David Ford, an Antrim councillor and general secretary of the Al-

Many people had come from other towns and villages, and some said they felt a need to be there to show their belief in a multi-religious future for Ulster. Robert Donaldson. from Belfast, said: "I am a Protestant and I wish to state that the people who did this do

whose body was found wrapped

in plastic sheeting near the

border on Monday. They are in-

stead following the theory that

the victim died as the result of

ing the RUC with inquiries

into the recent killings of two

Protestant groups. More arrests

searches in the Co Armagh

were made yesterday following

A number of men are help-

I have got nothing but contempt for them. We must learn to live together if we are to have any hope of a normal future." At 11am yesterday a minute's silence was observed

at the University of Ulster's campuses, Peter Roebuck, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Provost of the Coleraine campus, expressed the shock the university has felt. There was also sympathy for Mr Heffron's family and condemnation for his murderers from the National Union of Students, and the Union of Students in Ire- C land, which at the weekend called on members to vote yes in the coming referendum.

There have been claims that Mr Heffron's killers had attended a rally of Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party on Friday evening. But this was denied by Dr Paisley, who said: "We are totally opposed to any violence ... We have no association with anybody that takes violent means. There is an effort to try and blacken us but

Yes men ride into battle against Paisley

By David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

THE Ulster Unionists and the SDLP yesterday launched their separate campaigns for a Yes vote in next month's referendum on the Good Friday agreement, as senior members of the African National Congress arrived in Belfast for a series of republican-sponsored events.

headed by the Rev Ian Paisley, has enjoyed the lion's share of

that the pro-agreement forces have been much less visible and

Those who support the accord hope that Mr Paisley's campaign, centring on a series of rallies and doom-predicting news conferences, may have peaked too soon. One possible straw in the wind came when the local council in Larne, Co Up to now the No campaign, Antrim, voted in favour of

The loyalist town has both He was shot dead in the ear- publicity and exposure, with a strong Paisley influence and Gerry Adams.

many elements complaining an Ulster Unionist MP, Roy Beggs, who is strongly opposed to his party's endorsement of

Pro-agreement elements

therefore take it as a hearten-

ing sign that the Unionist grassroots are leaving towards The senior ANC member Cyril Ramaphosa is to visit re-

publican prisoners in the Maze H-blocks today, and is tonight scheduled to share a rally platform with Sinn Fein president

Anti-agreement Unionist Jack Perhaps it is appropriate the murder of a Belfast man MPs have meanwhile criticised the news that Chris Patten, the former governor of Hong Kong, has been asked by Tony Blair to head the commission looking into the future of policing in

William Thompson MP said of him: "Most Unionists will re- someone who will understand member Mr Patten as he stood the implications of baving had Catholic men by extreme lowering the Union Jack on Hong Kong and what we find in since 1970". Northern Ireland is that the British government are slowly

Northern Ireland.

ten's name has however been welcomed by the Ulster Unionist party leadership, Ken Mag- a row between drugs gangs.

that they bring him along to

The emergence of Mr Pat-

take part in that."

innis MP describing him as "a man of outstanding ability and to police a community like ours

Gardai in the Irish Repubbut surely lowering the Union paramilitary involvement in

DAILY POEM

After Making Love

By Stephen Dunn

No one should ask the other "What were you thinking?"

No one, that is,

who doesn't want to hear about the past

and its inhabitants or the strange loneliness of the present

filled, even as it may be, with pleasure,

or those snapshots of the future, different heads on different bodies.

Some people actually desire honesty.

They must never have broken into their own solitary houses

after having misplaced the key, never seen with an intruder's eyes

This poem comes from the American poet Stephen Dunn's tenth collection, Loosestrife, which is published today by WW Norton (£8.50).

Boys die as wall collapses

TWO BOYS were crushed to death yesterday when a wall collapsed on top of them while they were playing on waste ground. The accident happened as the pair were trying to make a hammock from wire across the 5ft walls on the land in Kemsley, Kent.

The two friends, who lived locally, were named as Gavin Glover, 15, and Steven Coleman, 11. A third boy, also 15, who has not been named, was playing there but was unhurt; he raised the alarm. The wasteland belongs to a packaging company, Rexam plc, based in Knightsbridge, west London. A spokesman for the company yesterday said it would be releasing a statement.

Welsh assembly finds home

THE National Assembly for Wales will have its home on a site close to the historic Pierhead building on the waterfront in Cardiff, Ron Davies, the Secretary of State for Wales, confirmed yesterday. The Royal Institute of British Architects is to organise a competition to select an architect and design for the building. The headquarters will not, however, be ready in time for the first elections to the devolved body in May next year.

No May Day dip for students

OXFORD students have been banned from the traditional May Day celebration of jumping from Magdalen Bridge into the River Cherwell because of fears over safety. Chief Inspector Phil Gormley of Thames Valley Police said the river was running 10 times faster than last year, and, if the students jump in, "they are unlikely to surface".

Anti-racist groups took over Lawrence family, police liaison officer claims

A POLICE family liaison officer assigned to support the parents of Stephen Lawrence, the murdered black teenager, admitted vesterday that relations with them had deteriorated rapidly but denied being offhand or unsympathetic.

Detective Sergeant John Bevan told the public inquiry into Stephen's death that he and another liaison officer, Detective Constable Linda Holden, were regarded with suspicion and mistrust soon after meeting Neville and Doreen Lawrence.

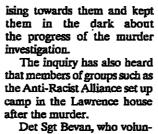
Asked by Edmund Lawson, QC, counsel to the inquiry, why relations broke down, he replied: "That's something that I have mulled over for five years, and I would love to have an answer to it.

"I tried everything I could to Det Con Holden were patron-



say police were patronising

communicate with there for them today."





Stephen Lawrence: Parents

Lawrences. I wanted to be there for them, and I still want to be

The Lawrences have told the inquiry that Det Sgt Bevan and way whatsoever," he replied. "I

ising towards them and kept remain tremendously sympathe progress of the murder solutely genuine." The inquiry has also heard that members of groups such as en the family no information

Det Sgt Bevan, who volunteered for the liaison task, said: There were tremendous barthe Lawrences were taken over wanted to make their own state-

was that that had the biggest ef- Stephen, who was stabbed by a fect on the lack of communi-

He denied that he and Det Con Holden had been unsympathetic or offhand with the Lawrences because they were black. "Certainly not, in no

them in the dark about thetic to this day, and that's ab-Mr Lawson suggested to

Det Sgt Bevan that he had giv-

the Anti-Racist Alliance set up whatsoever to explain the twoweek delay before any arrests were made. He replied: "I think I would have told them that some sus-

pects had been identified, but riers to communication. I think probably no more than that." Later, Mrs Lawrence issued by lots of outside bodies who a statement responding to claims this week by three police ment through them. I think it officers that the attack on

> white gang, was not racially motivated "In my view, from what I am hearing, police officers in this case did not wish to pursue it in a vigorous manner," she said.

The inquiry was adjourned until today.

Mayday, mayday, offer ends mayday.

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Sticks and stones

Can Language furns to Northern Ireland to look into the es will be welcomed back to the province by many, particularly his friends in the SDLP. However, Pandora re-calls that a number of Unionists were deeply upset with Paten \$1984 decision as environment minister to change the name of condendary to "Derry". He was even called "Lundy", thy insulting nickname for "traitor" in that part of the dinguants by the Chinese regime, won't be pre-our doing an impartial job by a few more slurs.

Disappearing minister

TALK is impending re-shuffle is enlivening all the bars at Westminster. Pandora's poll of Commons imbibers reveals that the most heavily tipped minister to get the chop is Tom Clarke, minister for film and tourism, known as "Mr Invisible"

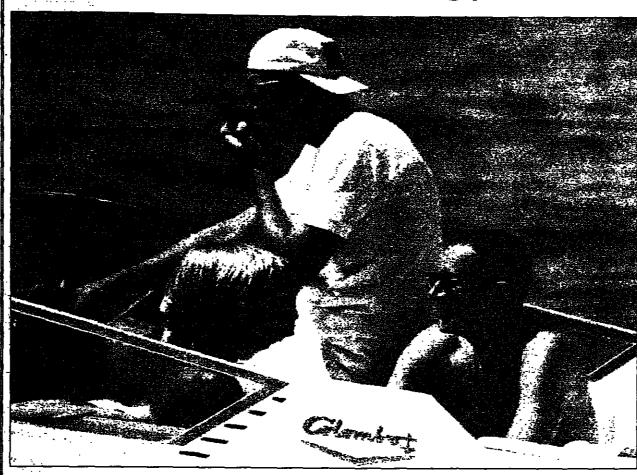
Piercing question

AFTER the Chelsea interior designer Nicky Haslam revamped his image, he found life as a Liam Gallagher-lookalike full of opportunities. Most recently in the Ivy, Nicky was telling friends: "Ever since Carla told Peter that I was pierced down here I just can't keep him off the telephone." Pandora wonders who and what Nicky could possibly be talking about?

Earl goes without

EARL Spencer made a terrible PR mistake when he was rude to a gossip columnist from the New York Post at the White House correspondents' dinner on Saturday. "I don't read newspapers," he told the back. "I haven't read a newspaper in eight months." The earl couldn't have known that the one US newspaper which appears to be widely read by British journalists is the NY Post. Its three daily gossip columns are available on the Internet and Pandora's counterparts seem to devour them. Yesterday, for example, the diary columns of the Telegraph, Times and the Express's William Hickey all picked up the Post's story about a tantrum thrown by the British actress Minnie Driver aboard an aeroplane from LA to New York. Pandora will look with great interest this morning to see if either the Telegraph. Times or Express carries the Post's story about Earl Spencer's newspaper abstinence.

Paris-Match fined for publishing photo of Diana and Dodi kissing



Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Fayed on board the yacht at the time the contentious shot was taken

THE celebrated paparazzi photograph of a kiss between Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Faved cost the magazine Paris-Match £10,000 in fines

and damages yesterday. In an action brought by Dodi's father, Mohamed Al Faved, a court in Paris found the magazine guilty of breaching the French law which forbids press intrusion

into private life. The magazine published the photo - already widely used by the British press and others - four days before the road accident which killed the couple in Paris on 31 August last year.

Nine photographers and a photographic dispatch rider. who were pursuing Diana's car when it crashed, are still under investigation for possible charges of manslaughter and failing to give assistance after an accident.

The photograph was taken off the coast of France when Diana and Dodi were on holiday last August on Mr Fayed's yacht. In the court hearing on 3 March, Bernard Dartevelle.

the lawyer acting for Mr Faved, said he had personally requested Paris-Match not to use the photograph at the

The editor, Roger Therond, had refused, saying its widespread use by other

media made it virtually a pub-

Mr Fayed had asked for

lic document.

£40,000 in damages. The conviction of Paris-Match under the privacy laws is an example of the toughness of the French legislation: but it is also a reminder of its ineffectiveness. A £10,000 bill for fines and damages will not unduly bother the magazine, which has often paid far more for the right to use exclusive

photographs. Paris-Match's even more intrusive rival Voici was convicted of 37 similar offences last year.

It will upset Faris-Match. however, to be singled out for its connection with the paparazzi hue and cry last summer, which continued until a few seconds before Diana and Dodi died.

The magazine must publish an account of the judgment in its next issue.

Britain gathers roses at TV awards

By Paul McCann

Media Editor

THE COMEDIAN Harry Enfield has been pipped at the post for television's top prize for a record third time after losing the Golden Rose of Montreux last night to cellist Yo-Yo Ma and his unique television interpretation of Bach.

Nevertheless British programmes again dominated the awards, winning half the silvers on offer and taking a third of the pominations.

The American cellist collaborated with artists, film directors, and even the ice-skaters

Torvill and Dean, to make a wacky classical music programme that used film sets, outdoor scenes and on-screen graphics rather than the traditional concert hall setting. The top-award was taken by the Canadian company which made it. but the six-part series was shown on BBC2 at the beginning of this year to much critical acclaim.

Harry Entield won a Silver Rose in the comedy category. It was his third silver, having won in 1990 for Norbert Smith A Life and in 1995 for his Smashey and Nicey send up of ageing disc jockeys.

In acknowledgement that Enfield keeps being runner-up. the town of Montreux created a special award of its own to send to the comedian.

Enfield said last night: "I'm delighted that my shows seem to have gone down so well over the years in Montreux ... It probably means that they are equally comprehensible in any

Also getting a silver for Britain was BBC2's less wellknown sit-com Operation Good Guys, a spoof fly-on-the-wall documentary about an inept police crime squad. It pushed Channel 4's smash hit Father

Ted into third place, garnering a bronze for its makers. Hat Trick Productions.

It emerged from the closed jury sessions that Operation Good Guys was neck-and-neck against Yo Yo Ma for the Golden Rose, Geoffrey Perkins, the BBC's head of comedy, said the programme was not only innovative, it was also one of the cheapest ever made for British television.

Fledgling British broadcaster Channel 5 won its first ever programme award by winning a silver award for its documentary Ozy Osbourne -

A Japanese game show format which has been bought by ITV to be fronted by Cilla Black won the silver in the game

show category.

Happy Family Plan, which will be softened for the British market, challenges families to learn tricks over a course of a week if they want to win prizes.

It has become a hit in Japan thanks to scenes of anguish as children are parted from the fabulous prizes they have played with for a week because their parents have not mastered the task set them



Harry Enfield: Special award from town of Montreux



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Labour chief regrets 'Donnygate' scandal

By Linus Gregoriadias

DONCASTER Council's ruling Labour group apologised for its involvement in the "Donnygate" scandal yesterday as part of its campaign for next week's local government elections.

Malcolm Glover, leader of the council, chose a visit to a nursery to unveil his party's election manifesto, and to apologise for the corruption scandals that continue to embartass the Labour-held council.

The statement, printed in Labour's Doncaster Manifesto. Change and Renewal, said: "The last year has been a difficult one for both the Labour Party and the people of Doncaster. The image of the party. the council and the borough as a whole has suffered because of the activities of a small number of people, and the Labour Party deeply regrets what has hap-

responded to the serious allegations that have been made and acted to bring about real change across the party in Don-

Mr Glover, speaking at the Bally Family Resource Centre in the ward where he is up for re-election next Thursday, said: -We are sorry about what has happened over the last 12 months ... When you have an episode like we have for the last 12 months, it has been traumatic for people, traumatic for me as leader and traumatic for

my colleagues. However, his words, which follow refusals by himself and other senior Labour figures to apologise over councillors' misconduct, were dismissed by critics of the council as a cynical stunt designed to boost Labour's chances in next week's election, in which one-third of

pened. The Labour Party has - the metropolitan borough's - travel, expenses and hospitaliseats are being contested. Ted Moffatt from the group,

Name The Names, which wants councillors who are under investigation for over-claiming expenses to be identified, said: "There are various councillors standing in the elections who have been involved in the paying back of expenses as a result of the district auditor's investigation. People should know who they are voting for. This statement is not enough."

A district auditor's investigation has been going on for more than two years in Doncaster after allegations of junketing and of corrupt land deals. Although an interim report named four senior couneil figures as particularly culpable, this investigation and a parallel one by South Yorkshire Police are still going on.

ty, and allegations that council members had questionable relationships with local developers are under scrutiny.

Labour's National Executive suspended the district party in the aftermath of the scandal. It was recently revealed that police had obtained court orders to search the bank accounts of 15 key councillors, and that a £200m property development involving a company controlled by Douglas Hall, the former vice-chairman of Newcastle United Football Club, was also being investigated by police.

Doncaster Tories are hoping to benefit from local discontent in next week's election. Andrew Isaacs, the local party chairman, is hoping to win a seat in the Bessacarr ward which now has Labour councillors in all three of its seats, but which is traditionally a Tory area.



Malcolm Glover, the leader of Doncaster Council, making a public apology for the 'Donnygate' scandal during a visit to a children's playground and nursery at a family resource centre yesterday



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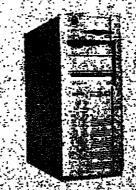
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PM's aide rages at newspaper

Political Editor

A SCATHING attack on "the vomit" of the Daily Telegraph has been delivered by the Prime Minister's official spokesman. Alastair Campbell.

His antipathy towards the right-wing broadsheet has been prompted by its negative coverage of the Northern Ireland peace process - even after the Good Friday agreement.

Mr Campbell has made an art form of taking on government critics, repeatedly picking on BBC radio's The World at One and the Guardian. But his loathing for the Telegraph peppered his in-flight conversation with the press pack during last week's flying visit to the Middie East.

He was particularly annoyed by two editorials on 20 April. One leader accused the Prime Minister of "emotional arrogance" for his attack on the snobbery of those criticising the reaction to the death of Diana. Princess of Wales.

The other editorial suggestion" for Tony Blair to attempt anything more than a groundbreaking exercise for the American diplomatic effort in the Middle East - after Mr Blair

had taken every opportunity to spell out the fact that that was the limit of his ambition, and that he had no wish to "cut across" the American lead.

The newspaper's coverage of Northern Ireland has been marked by its doom-mongering. and the more pessimistic it has been, the more annoyed Mr Campbell has become.

Soon after last year's election landslide, the newspaper's Irish correspondent. Toby Harnden, reported that it was unlikely that Mr Blair would want to move quickly on Northem Ireland, adding: There is also a question mark over how committed Mr Blair can be to achieving a settlement in Northern Ireland."

By January, Mr Harnden was reporting: "With the Northern Ireland talks stalled after 18 months without discernible progress, the 'peace process' appeared to be edging once again towards collapse.

After the Good Friday agreement had been reached. Mr Harnden reported: "It will be many months before it beed it would be "pure presump- comes clear whether the claborate arrangements agreed on and the agreement states that if one part collapses, then the whole structure will fall down.

Price of euro-fudge

ECONOMIC turmoil, high interest rates, job losses and bankruptcies will follow a fudged deal by European Union leaders on the single currency in Brussels this weekend. William Hague warned yesterday, writes Anthony Bevins.

The warning was delivered as a Labour-dominated Commons select committee reported that it would take at least five years before it could be known whether the currency was working, and whether it would meet British tests for viability. In a speech to a London

business conference, the Conservative leader said: "Before the election, the Prime Minister promised that he would stop a fudged single currency. "This Friday, on the an-

niversary of the general election, he must ... speak out against a fudged single currency. My guess is that he will duck the decision and leave the people and businesses of Europe to pick up the pieces."

Mr Hague warned that economic alignment between the countries joining up to the euro was an essential pre-requisite for a currency that could work. "Get it wrong and businesses will pay the price," he said.

Peter Lilley, the shadow Chancellor, last night noted with satisfaction that as the currency does not replace national currencies until 2002, another five-year moratorium would effectively rule out membership in the next parliament - in line with Tory party policy.

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OF LOAN	APRY	IS MONTHLY REPRYMENTS	TOTAL PAYABLE
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26,000	12.8%	£199.66	£7,187.76

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Big rise in cases of animal abuse and neglect

CRUELTY to animals rose by 16. per cent last year with more than 2,000 recorded cases of animals suffering abuse and neglect, it was

The Rival Society for the Pre-Richard Davies, the RSPCA's of animals found abused vention of Criefly to Animals said chief officer of inspectorate, said: in appalling conditions."

number of convictions for animal justice, it's the many animals who

Cais and dogs are the most common victims, but cruelty to wildlife almost doubled in 1997, rising from 121 cases in 1996 to 221 last year.

that despite its efforts to educate the "While public donations allow us to The number of calls to the soci-public about responsible pet care, the bring the perpetrators of cruelty to etv's houline reporting emergencies

cruelty rose from 2,282 in 1996 to suffer at the hands of cruel owners who pay the ultimate price.

"It is incredibly frustrating for RSPCA inspectors, who work so hard to prevent cruelty, to continue to see an increase in the number of animals found abused and living

and seeking advice rose by more than 7 per cent from 1,303,481 in 1996 to 1.397.516 last year, amounting to one call every 22 seconds. And the numbet of defendants prosecuted by the RSPCA rose by 23 per cent, from 971 in 1996 to 1,195 in 1997.

Alex Ross, a spokesman for the society, said: "It is very worrying that although there are more and more television programmes trying to educate people about responsible pet - were collected. The highest number ownership, the numbers are still going up. People seem to forget that a cat or a dog lives for about 10 years which is longer than most people will own their car and they need to think

about that when they get a pet." However, the figures also show that a total of 8,255 animals were rescued from danger and 169.846 un-

wanted, sick and injured animals

of convictions was in the North-east with 570 compared with 96 in the South-west.

The Tory MP Roger Gale, chairman of the all-party Parliamentary Welfare Group, said people who are cruel to animals should face a lifetime ban on owning them.

"While I am, of course, pleased that RSPCA inspectors are bringing

the abusers to court the fact remains that there are still some courts that are not prepared to throw the book at the perpetrator and ban them from owning animals - for life if necessary. For the kind of people that we are talking about a fine and costs is likely to prove no real deterrent and the magistrates' courts must recognise that when passing sen-

Salmon stocks hit by dry spells and pollution

SALMON catches in England and Wales last year were among the worst on record, according to figures released by the Environment Agency today. Pollution, climate change and overfishing are thought to be to blame for the continuing downward trend in salmon stocks since the Seventies.

Both fishermen and environmentalists said that urgent action was needed to tackle the decline. Figures reported to the Salmon and Trout Fisheries Centre, set up by the Environment Agency last year, show that angiers have rarely recorded poorer catches. And commercial salmon catches using nets were the lowest recorded, 39 per cent less than the average for the previous five years.

A key factor is believed to be changes in the temperature and currents in the North Atlantic where ed to be improved to counteract the salmon go to feed. But pollution in many rural rivers combined with low water flows caused by the dry ing blamed the people who own the weather of 1995 and 1996 are also thought to be problems.

campaigner at Friends of the Earth, in Britain is in private hands. "Many claimed that water companies should accept much of the blame. Over-ab- constructive about re-stocking. A



Short supply: Fishermen say that international co-operation is needed to halt the decline in salmon numbers Photograph: Colin McPherson

straction from rivers to compensate for water leakages had contributed to the low flows. And where water levels were low, sewage treatment needgreater effect of pollutants.

Arthur Oglesby, who teaches fishfishing rights. Unlike in the United States, where fishing is public, all Dr Michael Warhurst, pollution salmon fishing above the tide level of the owners are not doing anything

river is a total ecological unit, but if you own a few miles you're only concerned with your bit of it."

But there were other culprits too, he said. For example, sand eels were believed to be a salmon food source. yet the Danes extracted thousands of tons of them from the North Sea. David Pilkington, fishing instruc-

tor at the Arundell Arms in Lifton. Devon, said the biggest problem were large quantities of fish taken by nets out at sea, in particular giant drift nets along the north-west coast of Ireland.

Mr Pilkington said the declining salmon stocks needed international co-operation, but owners were doing what they could at a local level. For the first time, the Tamar and Tributaries Fisheries Association, compromising the main fisheries on the Tamar, had agreed a voluntary restriction on spring fishing. "Most fishermen care very deeply. People are

and then let the fish go," he said. Although the report covers England and Wales, the situation was just

now more prepared to catch a salmon

as bad in Scotland, according to Simon Taylor, of the Gordon Lennox estate in Fochabers, Moravshire. "Last year was an abysmal year right across Scotland," he said, "But 100 years ago there was a terrible shortage of spring fish. I think the present shortage is worse, but it is cyclical."

Dr Nigel Milner, head of the Salmon and Trout Fisheries National Centre, said they were working with other organisations to improve river habitats and introduce additional controls where needed.

Safety alert over defective babywalkers

PARENTS whose children use habywalkers were vesterday warned to contact the manufacturers after 10 of the most popular brands failed safety tests. Trading standards inspec-

tors said they were urging the manufacturers to recall the affected products and warned that thousands of defective models could already be in use in homes across the country.

But manufacturers challenged the results of the tests and said they had no plans to recall their products. In the tests carried out by

Liverpool Trading Standards with officials in Caerphilly and the Department of Trade and Industry, 50 out of 54 babywalkers failed to comply with the necessary standard. Some of the models were

found to be lacking the required safety warnings to alert parents to the potential dangers associated with using babywalkers. In the most serious cases the habywalkers were unstable and liable to tip over, putting babies at risk of head injuries. The report urged worried

parents to contact their local trading standards department. Peter Mawdsley, head of Liverpool Trading Standards, said parents needed to contact the manufacturer for assur-

ance about their product. "The

advice we have received from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents indicates that these types of failures are likely to present a risk of injuries to babies," he said. "We have therefore asked producers to stop supplying products which do not comply with the standard and to arrange to recall all the products affected."

Nigel Griffiths, the consumer affairs minster, called on the manufacturers to take "urgent action", or risk losing publie confidence in their products. He said the report raised serious concerns" about the safety of a number of models.

However, the Baby Products Association, which represents baby goods makers, questioned the validity of the tests which it said had not been carried out in compliance with normal protocols, it added that 94 per cent of accidents involving babywalkers were caused by lack of proper supervision rather than the design of the product. The 10 named products are: Bee

Bop Albion with Activity Tray: ABC Design Activity Walker Artiele No 997064: Chieco Item No-63098; Brevi Speedy Art 554; Silver Cross Safuri: Baby Club New Baby Walking Trainer Model T-1074: Mio Bambino/Mio Bambino Mamello: Scallywags: Mamas & Papas Walk'n Play/Mio Bambino Walk n Play: Petite Star Gym Bar or Toy Bar (177244.97).

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Children 'not ready for work of tomorrow'

By Barrie Clement

Eshour Engal

UNLESS the education system undergoes immediate and revolutionary change "millions" of Britons will be condemned to a life without work.

The Government and business are showing a "worrying" lack of understanding about the pace and extent of change". according to one of the country's foremost independent think-tanks.

In a sideswipe at the Chancellor of the Exchequer's tough economic policy, a hard-hitting critique published vesterday by the Royal Society of Arts said government must recognise the need to create employment as well as control inflation.

And instead of concentrating on cramming general knowledge into young people. schools should also impart practical "competences" so that pupils can survive in the brave new world of flexibility.

The study declares that educational institutions are preparing people for a world which no longer exists.

Written by Valerie Bayliss. the report, Redefining Work. says that incessant reforms of the Eighties and Nineties "bolted change on to a system which is essentially 19th century".

Ms Bayliss said young people wanted their education to prepare them for the real world with skills they need to live and work.

To prepare for the new milfennium the education system should be built around "competences" such as literacy, numeracy, familiarity with intermation technology and an understanding of the concept of least some of the time.

"proof". Young people should also be equipped to acquire knowledge and an ability to manage their time and finances.

Ms Bayliss argues that there has already been a revolutionary change in the world of work over the last two decades. Some 70 per cent of the new jobs created in the last five years have not been full-time or permanent. The era of the traditional, permanent job was quickly coming to an end and the pace of change was accelerating.

Workers, however, had a limited ability to deal with such flexibility, she believes. Around half of the adult population left school at 15 and half of those have had no formal education

While ministers had made a start in reforming the benefits sistem, it was essential that the unemployed should be encouraged to become more employable by constantly updating and changing their skills. She contended that after three months on the dole, a condition of benefit should be that the claimant improves his or her employability.

The report calls for a Learning Institute to encourage a lifelong process of education. The institute would provide the research on which to base the new

Many people distrusted the advice they received from financial companies. The tinancial sector needed to rewith the new uncertainties.

For environmental reasons the Government would eventually give tax concessions for tele-working, so that most people would work from home at



Furning: Gridlock in Crystal Palace yesterday, near the site of the proposed 4,000-seat cinema and its 1,000-place car park Photograph: Andy Blackmore

Car park sprawl may choke capital

AN AREA larger than Hyde Park. St James's Park and Green Park will be covered in concrete and converted to car parks under proposals being considered by London councils. A study by the Council for the Protection of England, entitled London's Great Parking Plugue, has found that boroughs are planning for 120,000 parking

places, covering 615 acres. The report argues that by approving such schemes ministers design their products to cope | are giving the go-ahead to generate millions of car trips -"mocking calls by ministers to leave the car at home". Some of the biggest schemes include 6,100 spaces at the Millennium Dome: 5.800 at an exhibition centre in Newham, east Lon-

Randeep Ramesh on plans that 'mock ministerial calls to leave cars at home'

Shopping Centre, west London. The largest development is the Terminal 5 project at Heathrow, which, if given the go-ahead, could be home to a 27,000-space car park.

The scale of proposed developments is in part due to the booming London economy. This demands homes for people to live in: shops to fulfil their consumer needs; and increasingly large leisure complexes for their spare time. So it is unsurprising to find Enfield horough council planning a residential develop-

don; and 4500 at the White City ment with parking for 2,000 cars near a cinema-cum-sports complex which itself has nearly 800 parking spaces.

There are no comprehensive figures on the amount of car parking available in London. Surveys compiled by London First, a lobby group for big business in the capital, estimates that there are 160,000 public offstreet parking spaces" in the 32 London boroughs, and a further 100,000 spaces in inner London for those who drive to work. Transport experts have long cited the ability to park at the end of a journey as a major reason: why people make trips by car, rather than by public transport.

The Government recognises and accepts this analysis. Ministers issued planning guidance two months ago which stated that "non-residential parking" should be "significantly reduced".

The amount of traffic that the new parking arrangements

would generate is unclear.

2000 spaces generated by a single car-parking space depends on what it is

being used for," said Lynn Slo-

man, assistant director for the

London's parking "plague"

Park Royal

Hotel 3065 spaces

2000 spaces

Heathrow Terminal 5 27000 spaces

White City

Shopping ce

4500 spaces

think-tank Transport 2000. "For a business, it would be for a shopping trip each space could be filled every two hours."

them, said Irving Yass, transport analyst at London First. The forthcoming transport

4785 spaces

Baridag Dome Car paik

Retall units

Crystal Palace

White Paper is likely to allow councils to tax "private nonresidential car parking in orone trip in and one trip out. But der to raise revenue for public transport and reduce congestion in town centres. A survey for However, company car parks Bristol city council showed that cause more havoc. The journeys using existing powers to curb car

a public meeting this week

is determined that the project

opens in 2000. "It is part of a

regeneration package which

includes landscaping Crystal

Palace park and re-developing

the sports stadium," said David

Bartlett, the council's deputy

ceive a "premium" of £6m for

the site, points out that the de-

velopment will create 1,000

new jobs in the area. "We will

generation context ... and

public transport provision"

meant the Deputy Prime Min-

ister should not intervene.

The council, which will re-

chief executive.

However, Bromley council

should attract hundreds.

made occur in the rush hour - parking would lead to a drop of "The total number of trips just when you do not want 41 per cent in traffic levels.

Sunspot Bug' may disrupt satellites in 2000

By Charles Arthur Science and Technology Editor

ORBITING communications f and television satellites could suffer a "Sunspot Bug" along with the Millennium Bug in 2000. British scientists warned yesterday.

Transatlantic telephone lines might go dead and satellite television channels black out as the chips on satellites are bombarded with electrons thrown out by vast tornadoes on the Sun's surface, intensified by a peak in the number of dark sunspots.

Observations by the Soho satellite, which studies the atmosphere of the Sun, show that the number of sunspots will hit a 10-year peak in 2000 - just as computers on Earth are struggling with the changeover to a new millennium.

Sunspots, which are cooler areas on the Sun's surface. cause solar storms which in turn lead to increased emissions from the Sun of charged particles which are flung out into space. When these reach the Earth they can disrupt sensitive chips, because they set up electromagnetic fields that interfere with the tiny flows of electricity inside the circuits.

During the last sunspot maximum between 1989 and 1991. solar storms were blamed for power failures and damage to several satellites. "Since then the human species has become more dependent on satellites and computers, and advanced microchips are more vulnerable to the Sun's electromagnetic effects and particles," said Richard Harrison, a principal investigator of the effects.

Soho - the Solar Heliospheric Observatory spacecraft, located one million miles from the Earth - has also discovered that the Sun's surface is buffeted by tornadoes, with "winds" travelling at 310,000 miles per hour.

*Dec tornadoes consist of inperhot gases at 250,000C. which mainly collect at the poles. from which they pour into space.

We see the hot gas in the comadoes spiralling away from the Sun and gathering speed." said David Pike of the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, UK, who is co-discoverer of the solar tornadoes with Helen Mason of Cambridge University.

"These spectacular events in the Sun's atmosphere must have widespread effects."

Space calling Wales

AFTER Neil Armstrong's one small step on the Moon 29 years ago, space buffs were yesterday presented with another extra terrestrial "first" when words of Welsh reached Earth from outer space, writes Tony Heath.

Dr Dafydd Rhys Williams, an astronaut aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, linked up with the BBC Wales television programme Wales Today to send messages in the ancient tongue back to his homeland. His family emigrated to

Canada from Bargoed in South Wales, but always retained an affection for the old country. That was heightened last

year when pupils from Stanwell school in Penarth visited Houston, Texas, where Dr Williams was training for the mission which blasted off on 17 April

He learnt Welsh from tapes supplied by the BBC so that he could use the language when contacting Earth. An enthusiast for all things Celtic his kit aboard Columbia includes a Weish Dragon flag and the cap awarded to Gareth Edwards for his 50th appearance for Wales in a rugby international.

Dr Williams told viewers that after blast off the crew members produced pocket mirrors so that they could look back through overhead windows and see the Earth getting smaller and smaller. "Eight minutes later, we were orbiting the Earth at 25 times the speed of sound. It's absolutely amazing," he told Wales Today's reporter, Amanda Powell

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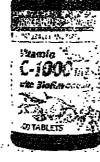
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over 'film village' in London park park, which is both Grade II- creasing band of objectors. It has received a petition with

Prescott faces court challenge

CAMPAIGNERS are set to take ministers to court over plans for L'ondon's largest cinema complex which will see a 20-screen film village and a 1.000-place car park erected on one of the capital's parks, writes Randeep Ramesh.

Local residents will this week seek judicial review of the refusal by John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, refusal to grant a public inquiry into the £60m development, set to be built on the site of the Crystal Palace in south London.

The proposal for a new 1,000-seat multiplex cinema on the site of the Victorian original - burnt down in 1936 - was given the green light by councillors in Bromley last week. The attraction could see up to 90,000 visitors a week to the area - which campaigners say would cause traffic chaos.

Local residents are furious the scheme will not be open to scrutiny. The developers intend to drive a road through the

listed and a conservation area. Campaigners against the more than 5,000 signatures and

cinema complex say the site is "metropolitan open land" and thus protected by the Government's strategic guidance for London. This states: "Land of this importance should not be used for developments which compromise its open character and value to London's green

John Payne, chairman of the Crystal Palace Campaign, said: "There has been scant consideration to the traffic problems that would be generated by the cinema. The roads are already jammed and there will be thousands of extra cars using them with the multiplex. "The site will also lose 100 ma-

ture trees and local businesses fear they will lose out because the council wants to turn the surrounding roads into no parking areas. The only option is a judicial review."

be spending £5m in transport arrangements - including a new bus terminal," added Mr Bartlett Prescott. His officials successfully argued that the "wider re-

The council is facing an in-

Roads in worst condition ever

By David Walker Sacial Policy Editor

THE roads and pavements of England and Wales are in their worst" condition since records hegan. The 1997 National Road Maintenance Condition Survey compiled jointly by the Government and councils noted a 'marked deterioration" last year over the state in 1996.

The survey is based on council officers touring a sample of the roads and pavements in town and country and recording their visual impressions whether surfaces are uneven or potholed.

Not all roads are getting

worse. All-purpose trunk roads improved "visually" last year, although the surveyors note engineering evidence that their underlying condition is also worsening. Local and minor roads looked worse. Inspectors saw that the condition of pave-

ments and roadside footways declined sharply, with - as the bureaucrats put it - an inстеаsed incidence of severe unevenness. This means that people are more likely to trip up.

This survey has been carried out since the late Seventies and this finding accords with the decision in many councils in recent years to cut their spending on maintenance of roads and pavements in order to protect their social services and schools.

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9) villages are expected to appear in the next 20 years. disappear in the next 20 years.

After paying lip service to the problem for years. Paris is purpaining to reverse decades of policy in an attempt to stop or at least slow down this companying, and the microsamp pollution, of the countryside. The Agriculture Minister, Louis Le Pensec, has finalised plans to shift policy away from its 30 year obsession, with increased moderates. obsession with increased productivity and bulk exports. A proposed framework law, circulated to unions and others this week, says policies of the future should be based on environi's aide ray.

Farmers would be encouraged to take out "contracts" with the state; the level of their subsidies would depend on their contribution to preserving nature, the creation of jobs and improvement of food quality. Farm subsidies, partly funded by the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), would no longer be automatic or encourage greater and greater output.

mental and social, as well as

economic, considerations,

The law would also create new planning procedures to discourage the swallowing up of smaller, family-size farms into agn-industrial behemoths. All this represents a considerable earthquake in French farm policy - and farm politics. Paris has been devoted since the mid-1960s to promoting France as one of the world's great massproducers and exporters of emised holdings are having diffood as well as the leading producer of high-quality and highprice toods and wines.

The new approach is recognition that the future of rural

also a reaction to the BSE cri- costs has been driven by the

sis and the growing interest of farm unions, traditionally dom-Farms in France

The old philosophy of productivity at all costs has been driven by the farm unions

in food production.

foremost, belated recognition of the plight of smaller, family farms, whose interests have been trampled by the Paris and Brussels - obsession with publicly subsidised productivity at the expense of quality and markets. While everyone accepts the peasant-scale agriculture which survived in France until the 1960s was doomed, even the larger, modficulty surviving in the central, hill-farming areas and parts of the north-east and south.

In more thickly populated

consumers in the methods used inated by the large, intensive cereal-growing interests of But the switch is, first and northern France.

In recent years this approach has been fiercely contested, within the unions themselves, by the representatives of smaller, family-scale, farms.

. The unions' reaction to the proposals has, therefore, been surprisingly muted to positive -

Pierre-André Deplande, secretary-general of a rival, small farmers' organisation, the Confédération Paysanne, is delighted with the approach. He been revolution in rural France: - "naturally" produced food.

the young farmers' union in Creuse, central France. He farms organic, grass-fed beef on 375 acres near Aubusson. As recently as 1980 his farm was 11 different farms. It now counts as an average-to-large family farm of the kind the new plan is supposed to help.

Mr Bialoux says Mr Le Pensec's idea is "fine ... as long as it is not taken too far. I don't want to become a gardener or a park-keeper ... I'm not interested in being here just to maintain the countryside in the way townspeople and tourists think it should look."

The new approach is, in part, recognition that changes in world trade policy and budgetary and political pressures in Brussels make the old form of CAP untenable. The French proposals fit the philosophy of a new round of farm-policy reforms planned by the European Commission - except in one crucial respect. Brussels wants to slash - even further than it already has - the level of price support: the artificial price at which the EU intervenes to prop up the market.

The commission believes that new, direct aids, based on environmental or social considerations, should compensate farmers for lower prices.

The government and all the farm unions are terrified by the prospect of a free, or freer, market in food. They say lower basic food prices in Europe would undermine the new drive to quality and ecologically friendsaid yesterday: "If Mr Le ly methods. They would make Pensec had suggested this 10 it even harder to persuade conyears ago there would have sumers to pay a premium for



Pressing problem: Up to 200,000 more French farms will go in the next 20 years

Photograph: Adam Woolfitt



e of euro-lik

British war heroes lie forgotten under lraq's decaying city

KUT — The tops of the tombstones are still just visible above the slimy green water. A broken cement cross sticks out of a reed bed. On the wall beside the gate which leads to this underwater vard became a quagmire in gravevard in the middle of the city of Kut is written: "Kut War Cemetery 1914-18". Inside are buried the bodies of 500 soldiers killed in one of Britain's least remembered and most comprehensive military disasters.

siege of Kut, when a British trapped and forced to surrender by the Turkish army in 1916, have become the victims of a more recent conflict. Before the Gulf War in 1991 the cemetery consisted of next rows of headstones set in a lawn in which grew palm trees and pomegranates.

Today the graves are under two feet of sewage water with green algae growing on the surface. The cometery is lower than the modern city of Kut by pumped to keep it dry. But Nations sanctions stopped spare parts for the pump getting through, according to local people. The grave-

Patrick Cockburn on the final indignity for 500 victims of a WWI débâcle

frogs swarm like cockroaches as they feed on the garbage.

The people in Kut have an intense interest in what happens First World War. A small force to the British cemetery because their houses are falling into it. Townshend was landed at Bas-The soldiers who died in the As soon as we left our car we ra to defend the nearby Iranian were surrounded by an indigforce of 13,000 troops was nant crowd. Aqail Tawfiq Ali owns a grain shop just beside the pit which used to be the graveyard. "Our houses are collapsing." he says, pointing to where the floor of the shop is visibly subsiding. "We need to pump out the cemetery, but we don't have a pump any more."

His neighbours all wanted to make the same point. Mariya Hassan Jassim, a voluble middle-aged woman in a black shortage of supplies, leading to robe, says "look at that crack in my wall. I have five daughters about eight feet and needs to be and no sons. I have already sold the furniture. Now my house is falling down." She points to a tamia campaign, now a forgotcrack in the wall which somebody has ineffectively tried to men

The fate of the cemetery in which thousands of little green Kut seems an almost appropriate end to the disastrous attempt by the British army to take Bachdad at the beginning of the under Major-General Charles oilfields. It advanced north up the Tigris almost to within sight of Baghdad. At Ctesiphon it suffered heavy casualties. The Turks sent reinforcements. It fell back down river to Kut, a town

> There were repeated attempts to relieve the city. General Townshend, who suffered something close to a nervous breakdown, exaggerated his premature attacks by British troops outside Kut against the strongly entrenched Turks. In the four years of the Mesopoten sideshow, Britain lost 40,000

it was besieged.



guard seems to have remained lion people of Baghdad 80

prevent their children falling

During the siege, the soldiers depended on rapidly diminishing rations eked out by mule and disappearing under water. One horsemeat. People in Kut live three weeks," says Saad Abdul

its level by eight feet. He says:

in the loop of the Tigris, where city today say they sometimes foundations of a new house are dug. Few are old enough to remember what happened though 87, wearing heavy blackrimmed glasses, says he recalls his family returning to Kut later in the war "on boat number 50 from Basra where my fami-

The fate of the cemetery,

and around Kut. People in the life in Iraq since sanctions were imposed eight years ago. Before find skulls and bones when the the Gulf War there was a guardian who looked after the graves. When the British embassy was closed in Baghdad be-Mohsin Jassim Mohammed, fore the bombing in 1991 local people say the guard stopped being paid.

Later the pump stopped working. Saad Abdel Ridha, whose home is also under threat, says: "The water started to damage our houses in and the people living around it, 1993-94. It has been getting Many of these were killed in reflects the decline in civilised worse for four years." The old

for a while, occasionally selling a headstone, but he became increasingly strange and was recently removed to a Baghdad mental asylum.

At the same time the sewage system in Kut was breaking down. There are black, evilsmelling pools of stagnant water in the streets. Mesopotamia is almost entirely flat. Water does not disappear until it is pumped. Apart from its own effluent Kut receives the partly treated sewage from the 3.5 mil-

miles upstream. Some of the polluted water flows into the

Not all the headstones are with the name of M Mathew on rations still. "We get rice. neatly incised on it was being sugar, vegetable oil, but we used to cover a pipe leading to only eat meat every two or a sewer. He had belonged to the Indian Labour Corps and had died long after the siege, on 27 July 1920. So toxic has the former cemetery become that the people living beside it are build-

He said the only thing to do to save his house and the cemetery was to pump it out and raise

ing a four-foot high wall to "It used to be a nice place to sit." Kosovo edges to war after Serb attack

By Steve Crawshaw

SERB police said yesterday that they had killed eight people in an attack on a "command centre" in the village of Glodjane, 60 miles west of Pristina, the capital of Kosovo.

The alleged attack - which has been reported by the independent Serb media but was not confirmed by Sorb authorities in Pristina – appeared to be in retaliation for the recent kidnapping of eight Serbs in the area. The missing Serbs are still unaccounted for. The staterun Tanjug news agency yesterday reported another three Serbs missing and feared kidapped near the town of Kuna

The reported attack in Glodjane came as the Albanian-majority Serb province slips steadily towards war. Today, the sixcountry contact group on Yugoslavia meets in Rome to decide what to do next about the escalating violence. Theoretically, tough measures are on the agenda, including strengthened sanctions against Belgrade. In practice, the message is likely to

be: steady as she goes. European governments have reacted "less than totally positively", in the American view. The Americans have suggested that they could "engage on some more pronounced activity on our own", if the five European members of the contact group fail to agree on a tough line.

The Russian foreign ministhat the border between Albania and Kosovo should be sealed to prevent "terrorist bands" crossing into Kosovo. nothing. Ethnic Albanians have



A Yugoslav army helicopter flies in foreign journalists to the Cafa Prusik border crossing between Yugoslavia and Albania yesterday Photograph: Peter Kujundzic/Reuters

The Serb police response repeatedly boyconted Serbhas been tough in recent months. Albanian talks - and did so The Albanians, meanwhile, have stepped up their guerrilla resistance. The tensions in Kosovo have increased, so that fullblown civil war has increasingly come to seem inevitable.

The very least Albanians want is autonomy for Kosovo. Following the Serb repression of recent years, many Albanians now want full independence for the province, which Serbs regard as their historic heartland. The contact group wants international community's reter, Yevgeny Primakov, argued the two sides to negotiate. But quirements". On past form, neither Serbs nor Albanians this can be assumed to be anseem keen to talk. Both believe other way of saving: "We are not

again yesterday. Thousands of Albanians marched in Pristina in defiance of Serbian rule. Demonstrators curried banners with slogans like "Serb Police

out of Kosovo". European Union foreign ministers issued a statement in Luxembourg on Monday in which the language was notably vague. There was talk of "additional measures" in case of "continued failure to meet the that it is a question of all-or- quite sure what to do, nor are we keen to do anything."

Mexican military court jails officer who exposed abuses

Mr Gallardo, now 51, was re-

cently court-martialled and sen-

ily and human rights groups say

were trumped-up charges aimed

at discouraging other soldiers

from speaking out. The main

publicly attacked. Amnesty In-

ternational was among nine

human rights groups which

joined Mr Gallardo's family

this week in protesting that the

Mexican army was subjecting

him to "psychological torture"

in a military prison.

Now, he is reportedly suf-

charge: stealing horse feed

By Phil Davison Latin America Correspondent

IN THE dour Mexican army, Jose Francisco Gallardo led the new wave - young, educated and athletic.

At age 42, almost 10 years ago, he became the army's voungest ever brigadier general. He had a degree in political science, was a national equestrian champion and placed fering the same rights abuses he seventh in the Pentathion at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Then he upset the applecant. In 1993, he said publicly what every Mexican knows, that the term human rights is not generally part of the vocabulary of the Mexican armed forces. He called for a human rights ombudsman within the military to prevent abuses.

After spending more than stripped him naked." Mr Gal-

four years in pre-trial military lardo's son. Marco, told detention on various pretexts. reporters,

"They took away beeks magtenced to more than 14 years in he needs for his appeal. They're azines, clothes and documents prison on what his lawyer, fam-constantly training a video camera on him. They want to break him. We're concerned over his physical well-being and his morale.

Obviously, there are no rules when it comes to Mexico's military prisons," Mr Gallardo's lawyer, Felix Garza, said, "They are violating his rights enturely.

The rights groups protested to the Mexican National Human Rights Commission, supposedly independent but close to the government and rarely critical of the military.

"Fifteen soldiers harged into his cell, dragged him from his Mr Gullardo has appealed to cot, threw him on the floor and the Supreme Military Tribunal. which is expected to rule with in the next few weeks.



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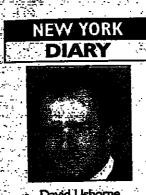
Indom tells o

Bathroom encounters of the Mickey Mouse kind

will make no mention of George Michael here. poor man alone?) But as it hap-pens, I have had a couple of counters of late that I may as well pass on. One here in New York and the other, less pre-

ming is every of course -

behind me. Fand my neighbour outburst. My piddling partner of the moment turn half- turns out to be Billy Zane. If around still both in full stream, you are among the 99 per cent to see who is responsible. A, of humankind who has seen the middle-aged woman is gripping "Itanic, you may know that Mr the wash-basin, apparently fear- Zane plays Kate Winsler's week in honour of the opening ing she might faint, and ex- beastly betrothed. But I hadn't of its new theme park, Animal



claiming "You're the husband! You're the busband."

mir you in internate presumity It is true that Fam married, "I'm sorry," the woman but this leaves me flummored pants to Mr Zane as he zips for the leaves me flummored pants to Mr Zane as he zips for the leaves me flummored pants to Mr Zane as he zips himself up. But you have to underly there is a food screech that I have nothing to with this (Of his fame. I have to assume.) It is true that Fam married,



Roy Disney and Mickey Mouse: Is Mickey really a girl?

still haven't - seen the film, so how was I to know?

"I'm sorry," the woman

y Orlando rencontre occurred in the midst bash organised by Disney last

Kingdom, I and a colleague from the Guardian make haste together to the gents after a two-hours of interviews with

company execs and the Disney "imagineers" who have dreamed up the safari adventure. Between us, in the line of three urinals, stands another man. He is none other than Roy Disney, the nephew of Walt and the splitting image of him.

I glance at my Guardian friend and clearly he is having

the same thought as I. Fancy that, my American dinner contaking a leak with Mr Disney. panions wanted to know? Turns And, when he pulls up his fly, will he break into a stirring rendition of his favourite moviesong lyric, "Zippety Doo Dah"?

of, I have to salute New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd for her observation on Sunday that the only thing obsessing American men these days more than the new Viagra potency pill is their grief over not having bought shares in the pharmaceutical company that invented it, Pfeizer.

At a dinner party the night before, I had ventured that I was astonished that so many American men were willing to admit to their flaccidity problems to their doctors. Most of us Brits would never make such a shaming confession. Lordy, I went on, I would rather prop mine up with scaffolding or Meccano before

asking by doctor for help. Meccano? What the heck is

panions wanted to know? Turns out Meccano in this country goes by the name of Erector. Huge laughter and everyone goes away thinking I am much more witty than I really am.

s Mickey Mouse really a girl? And if so, what does Minnie make of it? Are cross-dressing cartoon characters really what Walt had in mind for his family parks? This was among the questions doing the rounds of the 150odd British hacks assembled in Mickey-land last week. The thing is, Mickey in real life, as it were, is awfully small. No more than 5ft at most. (Pluto

and Goofy are towering chaps.) We had ample opportunity to ask Mickey directly since he/she and the other Disney characters kept showing up to entertain us.

No one did ask, of course, and it would have been pointless anyway since Mickey nev-



er, ever talks. Not even to us. Billy Zane: Awe-inspiring star of Titanic

Oil tanker seized by pirates

in Kuala Lumpur.

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attack

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SHIPS and aircraft from four oil tanker which has disapvictim of modern-day pirates.

The Singaporean owners of the Malaysian registered Perro ward of \$50,000 (£30,000) for recovery of the ship which disappeared 12 days ago en those took place off Indonesia. route from Singapore to Saigon in Vietnam. As well as her Senie worth \$1.5m.

een no contact with the ship. noon on 17 April when it rais passing close to the other ship. en stand of Treman. No s signals have been reposted in the area and maritime numorities have concluded that it has fallen victim to pirates who have become an increasing menace in south-east Asia since the onset of the economic crisis last vear.

- Malaysian officials have asked the American navy to join forces with vessels or aircraft from Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Australia which searchers believe that the hijackers may have repainted the tanker. This is not your normal search and rescue operation," Maritime Research and Coor-

recting the search. "To find a vessel that does not want to be located is not an easy task." Piracy is common in the

countries are searching for an South China Sea and around the narrow Straits of Malacca peared without trace in the which divide Malaysia and Sin-South China Sea, apparently a gapore from Indonesia and constitute one of the world's most important and vulnerable sea lanes. In 1997, the Interna-Ranger yesterday offered a re- tional Maritime Bureau (IMB) documented 229 cases of piracy worldwide, and almost half of

The fuel-hungry economies of Japan, Korea and China depend on the Straits for their oil supplies, and tankers are a favourite target. Last November, an Indonesian registered Apart from a couple of mitanker was hijacked and sailed antificined signifies, there has to the Gulf of Thailand where half a million dollars worth of fuel was siphoned off onto an-

Hijackings are frequently violent. "It's the brutality of the attacks and the fact that the pirates are never caught which is causing us concern," said the IMB's director Eric Ellen, earlier this year. "Everybody thinks ships are fair game and the psychological damage done to crews is immense."

The threat of pirates, along with the underlying tensions between south-east Asia and China, has contributed to a discreet are searching for the craft. The expansion of naval forces in the area and a booming new market for western arms manufacturers. Last year, Thailand bought

an aucraft carrier from Spain. said a spokesman for Malaysia's This week the Malaysian navy confirmed that it is to buy two dination Centre winch is di- British frigates worth \$360bn.

Indonesian activist tells of torture

AMID growing protests against the government of President Suharto, evidence is mounting that the Indonesian armed forces have been abducting and torturing political opponents, writes Richard Lloyd Parry.

It emerged yesterday that three more student activists. His captors released him earlihad returned bome after being missing for six weeks, apparently as prisoners of the army. News of their release comes the day after a description by another activist of the secret centre. Reza, Herman Hendrawan and missing were the victims of Raharjo Waluyo Jati, were freed crime.

on Sunday, according to activists in Jakarta. On Monday, Pius Lustrilanang told a press conference of two months he spent being interrogated and tortured. He said he was tortured with electric shocks and had his head forced into water. er this month and threatened to kill him if he disclosed where he

had been. He was flown into exile in the Netherlands shortly after speaking to journalists. His testimowhere the abductees were held in my undermines claims by the The student leaders, Faisol. Indonesian authorities that the

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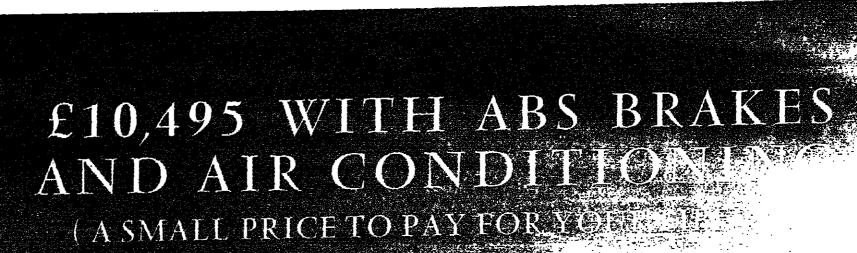
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Toxic disaster will blight Spanish park for decade

EXPERTS responsible for Spain's Donana national park insisted yesterday that the catastrophe inflicted on the UN-protected wetlands by a flood of toxic mining waste at the weekend is far worse than the authorities admit. the residue, laden with lead, arsenic. cyanide and other metals, will permeate the area and blight it for

A principal underground water - crucial for the park's ecological balance - has been contaminated, and the along which the torrent of black mud effects could last 30 years, according 10 Miguel Ferrer. Director of the journey to the sea. Park-keepers were Donana Biological Station, who leads yesterday engaged in the unusual aca team of scientific researchers in the park. "The Donana has not been the wetlands, to frighten the geese, saved. Government assurances are ducks and flamingoes into the heart of over-optimistic. This is a disaster without precedent," he said vesterday,

"Aquifer 27, on which most of the flora and fauna of the reserve and lotensity and speed at which the toxic material is seeping through."

Just as serious. Dr Ferrer said, was a swath of deadly sludge 20km by 400m that skirts the wetlands. "I'm particubeen spilt. It's a very stable element whose effects last for decades. With the With rain lashing the area, they fear | constant rains, the poisons are leaking slowly into the park. The Donana is not a closed system, and the birds do not respect administrative bound-

Thousands of mud-drenched channel that serves the nature reserve - corpses of fish, shrimps and crabs have started to appear throughout the route cascaded at the weekend on its 60km tivity of firing bullets on the fringes of the park and prevent them feeding on dead fish impregnated with heavy metals and acidic poison.

Greenpeace has moored a protest cal agriculture depends, has been af-boat in the mouth of the Guadalquivir. be constantly under-watered."

fected. We are awaiting data on the investigating the damage. "The park is surrounded by deadly toxins." Juan Lopez, director of Greenpeace's campaign against anti-toxic waste, said from the boat. "This makes government larly worried about the mercury that's claims that the Donana has been saved an unbelievably optimistic analysis. What's happened is they've sacrificed the whole ecosystem surrounding the Donana so that they can say they've saved the park."

The park director, Alberto Ruiz de Larramendi, insists the area surrounding the reserve must be urgently cleaned to prevent the destruction of its function as a protective buffer zone for the wetlands. He was particularly worried that waters now gushing into the sea at the Guadalquivir estuary were not strongly polluted. "This means that the poisons have been deposited in the soil. Apart from the immediate impact ... what worries me more is that because we have diverted the course of the contaminated Guadiamar river. the Donana can no longer receive water from it and it will



Dust to dust: The I7-storey Aladdin Hotel and Casino - where Elvis and Priscilla Presley were married in 1967 - on the Las Vegas Strip, Nevada, imploding to make way for a \$1.3bn (£778m) mega-resort

Belgian PM survives no-confidence vote

after sacking the country's chief child rapist and multiple murder suspect Marc Dutroux.

Mr Dehaene rescued his coalition after announcing to parliament that the head of the protesters marched from the Gendarmerie, Willy Deridder, main law courts clamouring for had agreed to "accept his re- more heads to roll. The justice sponsibility" for police bhunders and interior ministers resigned which allowed Dutroux to dash within hours of the Dutroux esfrom an unlocked court build- cape but it became inevitable ing waving a gun last Thursday. that the country's top policeman

Awaiting trial for the abduction and rape of six young girls and the murders of four of them. Dutroux was recaptured but only after the car he had hijacked was sported by a forest ranger when it got stuck in mud.

Mr Dehaene said there would have to be a "change of mentality" at the heart of the promised to push through an since the creation of the EU".

emergency package of reforms. Bungling incompetence and internal feuds in the country's THE Belgian Prime Minister, three police forces helped Jean-Luc Dehaene survived a . Dutroux to go undetected for no-confidence vote last night several years. Reforms were promised in November 1996 afof police to calm the public outcry following the escape of the the failures of the justice system. but have fallen victim to political wrangling.

1.5

The Prime Minister spoke yesterday as several hundred would also have to go.

But on the eve of Belgium's selection as a founder member of the European single currency, Mr Dehaene warned backbench MPs in the ruling parties against plunging the country into elections. He reminded MPs that the single currency was "the most important decision for

Kremlin's thirtysomethings

PRESIDENT Yeltsin took a step towards fulfilling his desire ing Boris Nemtsov. 38, as Deputy Prime Minister together with a government economist, Viktor Khristenko, 40. They will be the two most senior figures in the new Cabinet under the freshly confirmed Prime Minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, 35, --- Phil Reeves, Moscow

Britain on the fringe

IN A MOVE highlighting Britain's marginalisation from the single-currency inner circle, Austria is to convene the first meeting of the Euro-X grouping of Euro-zone finance ministers on 4 June. Britain does not relinquish the EU presidency until July but monetary-union countries want to see the new body in place as soon as possible after the 2 May summit to launch the currency merger. - Katherine Butler, Brussels

Abacha foes sentenced

A NIGERIAN tribunal sentenced military ruler Sani Abacha's former deputy and four others to death for plotting to overthrow him. The military tribunal, which has been sitting in secret at the central town of Jos, said 30 people had been tried for treason including Nigeria's former number two, Lieutenant-General Oladipo Diya.

Lewinsky wets appetite

MONICA LEWINSKY, the former White House trainee who allegedly had an affair with President Clinton, has posed for Varity Fair "frolicking" in the surf of Malibu beach and wearing not very much except a little black dress.

— Mary Dejevsky, Washington

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Fire transmitted

Singing it again with meaning

Producer Garth Drabinsky tells Stephen Gilbert why his version of 'Show Boat' isn't a revival but a restoration of a masterpiece of musical theatre which isn't afraid to explore its serious themes

PRODUCERS come in many guises. The proverbial ones are megalomaniacal mandarins who brook no unbidden opinion. The ones that the business adores are enablers who hand pick teams and then of it. But, of course, the best producers of all are the successful ones.

Drabinsky gratifyingly when I ask him in North America "but in a way that had expresses his creativity through collaboration with others. A legend on Broadway, he brings to London a reputation as the most hands-on of all producers of musicals.

"I never meddle," he says, "and I know, like a good fighter, when to retreat into the corner and get words of comfort: from my trainer. What I do, I hope, is to compel powerful collaborations to happen. I'm a catalyst. I'm not a frustrated writer and I'm not a frustrated director, although Hal Prince is convinced that one day I will: direct and I keep saying to him that I'm real happy doing what I do. I can use a director's eye from a certain vantage point when I have to, but I hope that my ideas are persuasive and cultured enough that I've won the respect of my collaborators."

This does not come across as false modesty. Drabinsky is a serious man in a field full of fluff, fakery and fulsomeness. He is bere with his revival of Show Boat, the first unmistakable masterpiece of the Broadway genre known as the musical play. Originally mounted at the end of 1927, it is a show renowned for its score, both haunting and rousing, by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II; for its striking setting of a Mississippi pleasure cruiser of the 1890s; and for its bold secondary plot, behind the central love tune - and Kern's, too - "O!" Man River".

Show Boat is rarely out of the repertoire. Revived a dozen times in New York - and in London in 1943, 1971 and (by way of an RSC/Opera North touring co-production) 1990-it is only exceeded in its proneness stand back and trust them to make the best _ to be added to, subtracted from and tinkered with by Leonard Bernstein's Candide.

Drabinsky saw Ian Judge's 1990 version "That's a great question," growls Garth :- and was determined to take another shot whether he isn't a writer-cum-director who never been done before". He figured that if he could negotiate the licence from the Kern and Hammerstein estates and "entice the perfect director, Hal Prince, to do the only revival of his long career, then I would have a chance of doing something special that would see the work find a whole new generation, which I believe it deserves".

With Engene Lee, Prince made a survey of the versions of the show's book and reconstructed what may come to be the definitive version. The famous John McGlinn recording of a decade ago ruled sternly on those numbers that should and should not make up a full score. "We think we've found the right assemblage of music from the various manifestations to project the story along properly," is how Drabinsky puts it.

But why now? "We're approaching the end of the century," he says. "This show begins at the latter end of the 19th century but the second act takes place in the 20th century, up until 1927. What fascinated me was the fact that Hammerstein was so bold in confronting the ills of society, especially in the form of racism, at such a tender date in his career, if you will, and in the embryonic stages of musical theatre per se.

"So few people since then have had the courage to deal with social complexity and divisiveness in such a powerful way. I was fascinated to see that a century has gone of the centenary of Paul Robeson's birth, and, guess what, things haven't changed Show Boar is perhaps widest known for the too much. That's an interesting piece of song that became Robeson's signature reflection to take towards a new century.

So, Dabrinsky's purpose is not just to



reproduce past success but to rediscover its true value, "Oh yeah," he says. "Reviving means nothing to me, restoration means everything. Taking a 1998 sensibility and availing myself of the technology of the day to re-examine brilliant musical scores and storytelling but with much more daring, if you will, to go deeper than the tentative approach to musical theatre that is still there. I don't believe you should pull punches. You should go for it when you

This is not to suggest that Broadway has found a big-time producer with a radical political agenda, although remembering the you can investigate the politics and the civil rights' marches of his student days,

Drabinsky's espousal of racial equality is no expedient stance for marketing purposes. There is something personal in everything you do in the arts," he says. "You can't be a soulless man. And you can say a lot in musical theatre, more than has been said so far. And, maybe, with greater potency than people think. Musicals surely should entertain and, God knows, I want that to happen. But storytelling to engage an audience can't just be a fairytale, can't always

sociology of the time, then I think you have

the basis of a great evening of theatre." Accordingly, Drabinsky has John Guare

working on a new version of Rodgers and Hart's Pal Joey that explores its context the debate about American isolationism and whether war with Hitler should be joined - to reinforce the isolation of John O'Hara's dubious hero. Ragime, currently a Broadway hit and set to follow Show Boat at the Prince Edward, will be joined by a new musical, Parade, which confronts anti-semitism and will complete what pathetic souls. If you have the ability to layer Drabinsky thinks of as his trilogy of musica work and if it has an historical context and als about the American century.

So, here we have a producer who means business. Having built his career through











All-singing all-dancing: scenes from Drabinsky's West End production of 'Show which aims to put the musical in its social

Photographs

showbiz law (he literally wrote the book) and movie exhibitions in his native Canada. Drahinsky has become a major player in American theatre. He is engagingly candid about his set-backs: he was thrown out of Cineplex, the film company he built: and childhood polio has left him with a ferocious limp and a back condition that can immobilise him for days. But he is fierce on behalf of what may prove a whole new field - a musical theatre rich Mackintosh may be looking to his laurels.

"Show Bout" is at the Prince Edward Theatre,

BBC's golden age finally goes on the fictional record

Robert Hanks finds that Stephen Poliakoff's new play about the BBC, 'Talk of the City', is one of surprisingly few pieces about such an influential national institution

THE ORIGINAL idea was to ter, Samuel Beckett and Tom use Stephen Poliakoff's new play. Talk of the City, which deals some point). Most writers you with the BBC in the run up to the Second World War, as the excuse for a piece about how the BBC has been represented in novels, plays and films.

Just off the top of my head. it would mention Penelope Fitzgerald's novel Human Voices, that hoary old film. Death at Broadcasting House, and the question of how far the Ministry of Truth in Nineteen Eighty-four drew on George Orwell's wartime experience as a BBC employee. And, presumably, plenty of other stuff would turn up... No such luck, though.

The most important cultural institution in this country has hardly been written about John Preston's novel Ghosting was set in the early days of the corporation, and there are novels where characters give radio talks. (There is a scene in the Powell and Pressburger film The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp where General Wynne Candy is prevented from giving a radio talk.) There must be other examples, but the fact remains that there is a gap in the fossil record of literature.

On a brute, practical level, the BBC has been a cultural patron on a scale that makes the Medici look like a gang of philistine tight-wads. It has commissioned music, poetry, and plays from some of the greatest artists of the century (Elgar's Third Symphony, the one that has just been aired in Anthony Payne's version, was a BBC commission; so was Under Milk Wood; Harold Pin-

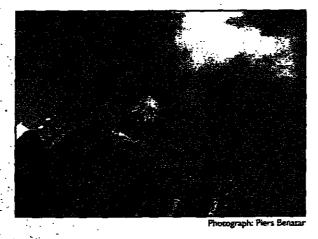
Stoppard all took the shilling at can think of have kept their heads above water by giving talks, writing little radio plays, abridging novels. You would expect a few of them to have turned the experience to ac-

The BBC has such symbolic possibilities. It is organised as a very pure form of bureaucracy; any creative output has always had to burrow its way to daylight through a marted undergrowth of forms and procedures.

It embodies the clash berween high cultural tradition. and modern populism (as observed in Radio 3's continuing efforts to attract bigger ratings). In the 1980s it seemed to embody the dilemma of liberal Britain, trying to keep its ideals affoat in a tidal wash of consumerism.

The BBC has penetrated life to such a vast extent, it's hard to think of a single institution that has influenced national consciousness to such an extent. From it has derived a rich common stock of jokes, catchphrases, cliches, images. The wonder is not so much why writers haven't written about it, but how they have been able to

All of these themes, and a few more, are tackled in Talk of the City. The play is set at what Poliakoff reckons was "the most powerful moment at the BBC, probably, just before the War - just because of the techpology, so many people had this one instrument in the home".



On a brute, practical level, the BBC has been a cultural patron on a scale that makes the Medici look like a gang of philistine tight-wads

the organisation as "The Gold-

en Age of Wireless".) Robbie, the play's central character, is host of a variety programme called "Friday Night at Eight", closely modelled on the real-life Monday Night at Seven: music, patter, pre-scripted interviews, a de-

tective story. Robbie's flair for improvisation places him at odds with the Corporation's rigid approach. Poliakoff places him in a line that led to Kenny Everett and Chris Evans: anarchic, intelligent people that have a strong streak of selfpreservation in them". It also gets him involved with Clive (The period was characterised a senior producer who wants in Asa Briggs' official history of to exploit his talents to alert

people to the plight of Jews in

Germany. The genesis of the play, Poliakoff says, lies in three things - a question, a coincidence and an image. The image - borrowed from Death at Broadcasting House - was of showgirls in full, glittering costume lined up in front of a microphone, dressed to the nines for an audience that can't see them. The play contrasts this rehearsed opulence, and the venerability that the BBC had acquired within a few years of starting up, with the experimental poverty of the infant medium of television, a place where you could afford to mess around because virtually no-

says, was that "Orson Welles's lip and a cheeky twinkle in her War of the Worlds - which is still I think the most famous media event of the century - happened within five or six weeks of Munich and 10 days before Kristalinacht... If you can terrify the whole of America about an invasion from Mars, an invasion from outer space, you could involve them in what was actually happening in Europe, the huge power of this instrument.

"As a child I remember asking my parents, did you know what was happening in Europe? How much was said?" that is, how much was said before the Second World War about what the Nazis were doing to the Jews. The BBC broadcast some talks on the subject, but not very many and not of great depth or serious-

Poliakoff cites a memo of the period written by John Coatman, senior news editor, who said that the Corporation "had taken part in a conspiracy of silence". Humphrey Carpenter's history of the Third Programme, The Envy of the World, cites an anecdote about the director-general, Frederick Ogilvie, suggesting that Germany could be persuaded to stop persecuting the Jews if the BBC broadcast the celebrated recording of Beatrice Harrison playing the cello in a wood full of nightingales - an incident Poliakoff left out of his play because he felt it was too Monty Pythonish,

What gives Talk of the City its punch, though, is simply the lowering presence of the BBC. The picture of good old Aun-

The coincidence. Poliakoff tie Beeb keeping a stiff upper muddle, snobbery and comeye during the darkest hours of the Blitz is one the Corporation relishes: at other times, as

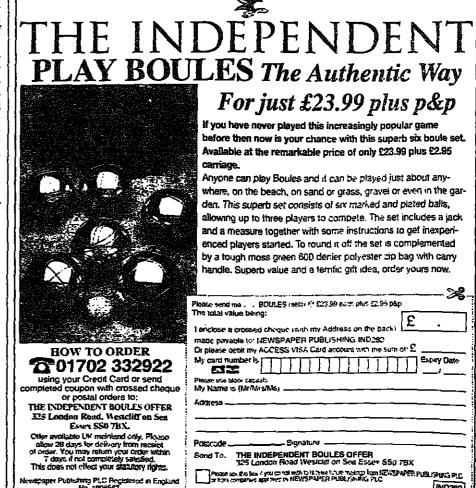
Poliakoff demonstrates, it has

been better characterised by its

But doesn't this remind you of something else? Doesn't it remind you, just a little bit, of a country you live in? Whatever you think of the BBC, good or

bad, it is the broadcaster that we deserve.

Talk of the City is at The Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. For tickers and information, cal-



the ren temperat oper-cooking" end of a

the later to the medical section of

Doesn't suit you, sir



Hardy Amies, by appointment to her Majesty the Queen, despairs at the state of menswear today. The 88-year-old explains to Robin Dutt why gentlemen and fashion are incompatible.

SOMETHING is rotten in the state of menswear. And Sir Hardy Amies thinks he just might have the antidote. Attractive though sex is as a pastime, and increasingly, an advertising ploy, it may be that we have overdosed on too much bare flesh or more precisely, honed muscle which sends even the most rational man rushing to the mirror to check his wares. Today, if it's not Gucci or Prada, it's nada in the menswear stakes. Their brand of erotic minimalism - chiffon briefs and torso-torturing T-shirts - are the demier cri for men of every

But Sir Hardy cannot get a handle - love or otherwise on this new vogue. His point is that menswear has to be appropriate at all times - elegant, functional and of service to the wearer. Sitting in his office eyrie, the carpet stamped throughout the House with his initials - HA HA running like a mischievous laugh - he has, he feels every right to pronounce on the state of menswear. He has just given a talk about the future of men's clothes to an assembled group of worthies and his stance is rigid to the point of snapping.

It seems that for Hardy, in business since 1934, menswear has made the mistake of being part of the fashion machine. "Fashion in menswear is a contradiction in terms," he says. "I make clothes for gentlemen and gentlemen do not want to look as though they are on a catwaik." Well, to see the pleasure many males take as they parade down the street. the opposite might be true. But then, Sir Hardy is not talking about many males. He is talking about those with "class". And now, we're into deep water where political correctness drowns in five seconds. Sir Hardy bangs on about class like many others trumpet human rights.

The sort of class Sir Hardy is keen on does not necessarily depend on vast quantities of cash. "My clothes are part of an investment wardrobe," asserts Sir Hardy, today impressive in midnight blue blazer and grey flannels. "The whole business should be about helping a man build a wardrobe than has something for every occasion."

Other designers, it seems, get it so wrong, "Never wear shoes with metal on them." he barks. "Dyed grey is a horror and please - no genital buttons on a coat." He regards Edwardian formality as the only way to dress. His philosophy is based on one button - that exactly on the waist. The rest of the suit follows from that central point.

Millennium style for Hardy Amies is, in short, not so dissimilar to that at the end of the last decade. Based solidly on tradition we have Edwardian Ghillie-collar five buttoned jackets, sleek trousers and ties that are very well-behaved. But there are surprises too from menswear director lan Garlant - expect to be able to order long sweeping alpaca coats, chamois jeans and even a leather frockcoat.

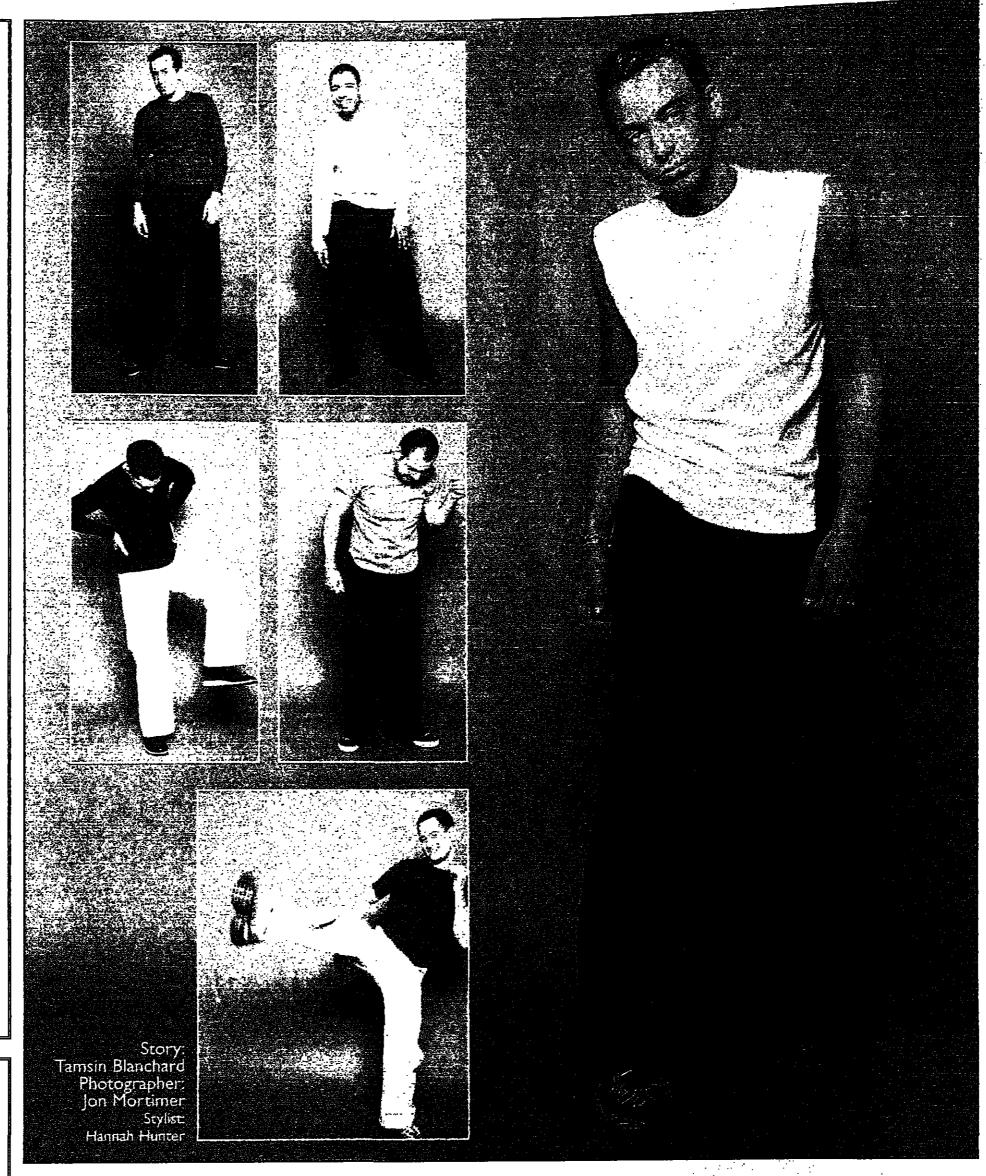
OUT OF THE CLOSET



Trevor Sorbie, the celebrity hairdresser, confesses to having a 'thing' about black and also reveals his biggest fashion mistake.

"Black is my favourite colour when it comes to buying clothes. In my opinion it is the most fashionable colour, I think it does favours for people, it always looks chic, is slimming, and never really dates. I have loads of black Issey Miyake suits, which I use for stage presentations and TV appearances. I'm not really a suit person, but I find a suit prevents me from looking like a wimp. When I'm in the salon, however, I generally wear black jeans and T-shirts. I like to keep the atmosphere nice and relaxed, there is nothing more terrible than going to a hairdressers and feeling intimidated the moment you walk through the door.

My biggest fashion blunder is a Hawaiian shirt that I bought in Bali, it's incredibly bright, a mixture of blues, greens and oranges. It looked great when I wore it in Bali, but it just didn't work in London. I felt a bit of a prat wearing it, so I'm saving it for the next time I go to a location where I can blend in. The other thing still in my wardrobe after almost 29 years, is a crocodile-skin studded belt, that I used to wear in my teens. I'm afraid it doesn't even fit me now, but at the time it cost £100, which was three wage packets, and for almost that reason alone, I'll never throw it out."



Wide boys wear the trousers

Measure the circumference of your trousers around the ankle. If they are less than 16 inches, you haven't being paying attention. If they measure 20 inches or over, you either have your tape measure on the pulse, or your wardrobe went into sartorial freeze in 1974. You see, the width of your trousers - if you are male that is - is a talking point again.

"We've moved on from last season's kick leg trousers. Now we're into parallels." says Nick Walker, casualwear buyer at Harvey Nichols. "They're long, wide and the same width all over. How wide? At least 24 inches. Ann Demeulemeester has done really wide ones, but you've got to be a six-footer to wear them. Don't think flares, though. Think relaxed." And think Dolce e Gabbana, (26 inches) Dries Van Noten (21.5 inches) and Prada whose trousers come in three different widths this season.

Wider legs have been billowing about on the catwalks for the past three seasons. It's not so much retro this time as about balance and proportion, although John Rocha for one took inspiration for his collection from George Best circa 1972, full feather-cut and all. But finally, the wide leg has made it off the catwalk, into the high street, and if sales are to be believed, onto the bottoms of men up and down the country. The fit of these trousers is quite precise. This is not just a case of digging out your old Northern Soul strides.

The new flare fits snugly around the bottom rather like last season's flat-fronts and they flare from the thigh, the same width all the way down. They should fall to the floor, covering your shoes, rather like an elephant's foot. The shoes

HAVE you got your tape measure ready? Then we'll begin. foot giant. For once, here is a trend that is equally unkind to men. Ideally, you should be six-foot six, and you should have a perfectly formed, perter-than-pert derriere. According to Nick Sullivan, associate editor of Arena, your upper body should be bigger than your burn. "I can't wear them," says Sullivan, who is six foot. "They make me look about fourfoot tall. You need to be lean.

Chris Bailey, head of design for Jigsaw Menswear, has plumped squarely for the parallel option this season. "We introduced them with a drawstring last summer and with a 24-inch hem in flannel for last autumn," he says. Most customers are getting used to the new shape quite quickly. "They're easy to wear with trainers and a T-shirt," says Bailey although he is also trying to introduce a new-style suit for summer: a fitted short-sleeve shirt with the trousers all in the same fabric. "These are not high waisted at all. They're semi-hipsters." Bailey puts the new trend down to a reaction against the narrow, mod suits that have been dominating fashion in the mid-Nineties. "This is a more relaxed look. You can chuck on a pair of looser fitting trousers and wear them with a slim-fit T-shirt."

The time is right. "Two years ago, we couldn't have sold them." he says. Now the stores from Manchester to Covent Garden can't stock up fast enough. And if you can't quite stomach the idea of venturing forth in a pair of parallel slacks. don't worry. By autumn, Jigsaw will have moved onto a new shape. According to Chris Bailey they are "wide but very short, about 6 inches above the ankle". It would appear choosing a pair of trousers has become a matter of geometry. Once should have no more of a platform than the average pair of you've stood in front of the mirror and sized up your physique, trainers. They are more Cary Grant than Bay City Rollers. not to mention the shape of your behind, you are ready to Most fashion trends for women are designed for the six- go shopping. Don't forget your tape measure.

Mark Hayman, 28, designer, top left Wear different things to work, from jogging bottoms to suits. Trousers quite cool but wouldn't buy them because mates would take the piss out of me John Harrison, black and white proces-- they're too camp. Maybe wear in

evening more than day. Navy wide-leg linen trousers, £76, from Jigsaw, as before; blue t-shirt, 235, Muii. as before; trainers models own.

Mustapha Merzouk, 35, manager of loe's Café, top right

Wears Joseph suits for work. Likes 70's style, would buy them, though wouldn't have picked this outfit "I wouldn't normally buy these, but after trying them. feel more comfortable in this style."

Viscose cream sweater, £119 Nicole Farhi; Charcoal linen trousers, £225, Dries Van Noten at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1, 0171-584 00ll; shoes, model's own.

Nick, photographer, 30, centre left "For work, I wear any trousers or T-shirts that are clean. I would wear trousers this wide, although they are out of my price range. Liked the fit and

Grey brushed-cotton t-shirt, £34, jigsaw, 27 Brook Street, London W1, 0171

: 499 2521; Navy linen trausers, £185. Doice e Gabbana, from Harvey Nichols, as before, trainers model's own.

sor, 29, centre right and bottom Wouldn't wear white D&G trousers a bit too camp. Normally wears bag-

gy trousers, but not as wide as these. Preferred the wider D&G fit to the Jig-

White sailor-style cotton trousers. £140, Dolce e Gabbana, as before; Navy ribbed cotton top. £35 , Muji. 187 Oxford Street London W1, enquiries 0171-437 7503; sandals by Clone, £110, from Jones, 13 Floral Street, London WC2E 9DH, enquines 0171 240 9312.

Cream chino-style trausers, £79, Jigsaw, as before; brown t-shirt, £49. Nicole Farhi, as before: models own trainers.

Jason Morais, 27, artist relations manager, main picture I never wear baggy trousers. In this out-

fit I feel live a Madonna dancer from the "Express Yourself" tour.

Grey pinstripe linen trousers, £225, Daire e Gabbana, as befare; sleeveless white top. £30. by dust from Burro, 19a Floral Street, Covent Garden, London WCZE 9DS; trainers model's own.





GARNIER

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predictable in psychological

terms. They probably have

more idiosyncrasy because

they have the freedom to ex-

agree: "I do think only children

are more creative." says

Matthew But it's because

you are by yourself so you have

to make up adventures or

whatever to amuse vourseif."

dren do tend to be more intel-

lectual. "I think they are more

literary, certainly, because you

read books rather than spend

Frank thinks that only chil-

Both Frank and Matthew

plore," he concludes.

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Life with the Only Ones

In China the policy of only allowing one child per family is being relaxed. In Britain and the West, a single child is becoming the norm. Glenda Cooper reports

CHEESEA-CLINTON is not of only children increase, the just the First Child but the Chinese have announced a Only Child, top. So were formal relaxation of the one-Enoch Powell, Norma Major, and Sandie Shaw. There are now 2.75m single offspring in our country, according to the 1991 Census, and recent fig-methods of education and ures from the Office For National Statistics reveal that two-parent families are now more likely to have only chil- birth rate.

dren than ever before. being a Little Emperor in your own home, cosseted and cherished by idoting parents? In China, which has 65m only quences of growing up without siblings and their rivalries, and being put at the mercy of parents' hopes and ambitions. children, thanks to its onechild-per-family policy, the first generation of single. The first is choice: their afflu-Chinese children is attaining its majority - the policy was introchiced in 1979 - and experts don't want the cost or the preshave worried about creating a sures of child-rearing. The generation of spoilt and com-

Now just as our numbers having children so late in life

child policy in a pilot programme in rural areas. Instead, family planning officials will try the gentler persuasion as a means of encouraging voluntary contraceptive use and restricting the

Little research has been But what is the effect of done here on the conse-Only children are usually singletons for one of two reasons. ent parents decide not to have several offspring, because they other is necessity: they really can't afford it or they have left

that they are unable to have

more than one. But studies indicate that only children do not communicate as well as other children. Dr Charles Lewis of the Department of Psychology at the University of Lancaster says: "Singletons have a smaller social network and they are not always very good at adapting themselves ... Most have parent-centred lives. It may have prevented them realising what it is to be involved in social communications."

Matthew Brace, a travel writer, says he can spot an only child, with his or her confidence and self-assurance, anywhere. "They are sharp-witted, with a creative streak and tend to be dreamers." He is unequivocal about his own experience. "Given the choice, I wouldn't have been an only child. You feel desperately lonely, you are forced to make up your



Chelsea Clinton: First Child, only child

think that is why most only children I know are creative. The most painful thing of all is that when there are family troubles you've just got yourself and, as

own games and adventures. I any psychiatrist will tell you, there is only so much talking you should do to yourself. It can be a great burden."

Frank Gould (not his real

name) disagrees. "I've never

regretted being an only child," he said. "You don't get all the tensions that you get with brothers and sisters, the sort of arguments you find as you get older about who is going to look after your parents. If there is more than two of you, I'm sure people gang up and bitch about each other."

He feels that he did not make friends to compensate for not having siblings; indeed, he revelled in the privacy it allowed him. "I liked never having to share my toys."

The first-time parent may have a problem with confidence and have much more doubt about their ability to cope with children," says child expert Dr Richard Woolfson. But I think only children develop very well now that parents are aware of the stereotypes. Most parents now say they are going to make damn sure their child doesn't have a

problem socialising when they start school. *Certainly birth order is a

significant determinant of personality because of the influence of early years up to five. It is a big factor because to have two children is still the norm." Frank Sulloway is the author of Born To Rebel, which

investigates the significance of birth order. As part of his research, he looked at studies of 1m subjects, leaving him to conclude that first-borns tend to be tough-minded and ambitious while conservative with a small 'c', whereas younger children tend to be more rebellious and radical in order to grab attention - the classic cases, he thinks, being Robespierre (first-born) and Dan-

ton (younger son). Only children occupy a niche in their family. There is no competition to explore, but that makes them more un-

time fighting with brothers." Asked whether they would worry about their own offspring being only children, both Matthew and Frank plumped for larger families. "I wouldn't worry about it but I wouldn't want just one child," says Frank. "If I had kids, I'd never ever have an only child. I'd want three or four," adds Matthew.

Who's who in the literary premiership

Ted Heath and John Major are completing their long-awaited political memoirs, They get the money, but what does the reader get? Sean O'Grady leafs through the pages

ONE of the longest gestations, —the authors Aller years at the door, this is my case. This can in autolographical history has top some exhausted premiers have a paranoid tinge. Harold in autolographical history has top some exhausted premiers have a paranoid tinge. Harold in autolographical history has drawn to a close. A few days ago, the final corrections were made to the manuscript of The Course of My Life, the memoirs of Sir Edward Heath. Almost a quarter of a century after he left Number 10, Ted will, at the Tory party conference in Bournemouth this October, launch a 650-page volume of political memories.

The 300,000+ words chronicle a long political career which began at Oxford in the 1930s. and we are promised "a revealing panoply of twentiethcentury political, international and social history".

The former prime minister is said to have been writing his memoirs for many years. As long ago as 1985 he was promising to spill every uncensored detail". A previous publisher's advance had been returned, and a project with the BBC a few years ago foundered (although there will be a television spinoff now). It has been suggested that one reason for the delay was that he could not come to terms with his losing the premiership and the leadership of his party. But the expectation that he should have written his version as soon as he left office is, in historical terms at least, unfounded.

The idea of a routine set of prime ministerial memoirs is relatively new. The very earliest example of the genre was a volume written by Sir Robert Peel who arranged for his book to be published after his death (which seems an awful long way round to avoid poor reviews). HH Asquith's was the first lengthy account, while Sir Winston Churchill wrote extensively (My Early Life is the only political memoir to have been made into a biopic, Young Worston). But all of our postwar leaders have or have promised to produce a set of memoirs varying from the very iong (Eden, Macmillan) through long (Wilson, Thatcher) to relatively brief (Anlee. Home, Callaghan). As we look forward to Teu's this autumn and John Major's next year, we ask, are they worth reading? Are they worth writing? Can they be both?

The answer to the first question is "cornetimes", the second, assassination. Or, as Winston 'yes" and the third "no". First Churchill put it; "this is not his-

found putting together their reflections "therapeutic". Not the least aspect of this is the recuperative effect of money. Churchill, a one-time journalist, certainly wrote to help keep the wolf from the door. Eden escaped money worries for the first time in his life after publishing his (he might have made more still had immediately sold his story to Lord Beaverbrook for £1m, £13m at today's prices). Harold Wilson made £250,000 (£2m now) for The Labour Government 1964-70, A Personal Record, some of which



Statesmen hope their testaments will defend their reputations from assassination

was spent on the running of his office as Leader of the Opposition. There has been some fuss about the reputed sums offered to John Major for his memoirs (up to £600,000) but if anything he is probably undersold. But all these statesmen

would probably write something even if there were no advance or serialisation rights on the table. Like soldiers whose might look at previous form to lives are saved by the bible in their tunic that stops the sniper's bullet, they hope that their testaments will defend their reputations from political

Wilson wrote that "I did not want historians to have to rely on what they read in an entirely hostile set of newspapers. There was hardly a single editor or writer who had a clue about how government was run and I was intent that the record should be put straight". Despite, or possibly because of, the fact that former premiers are given privileged access to official papers from their time, while "proper" historians have to wait 30 years, they often commit sins of omission or commission that tend to cast doubt on the whole exercise. Asquith's treatment of the

struggle for votes for women (two pages in two volumes) reveals much about his attitude but is still a bit skimpy. In his chronicles of the last war, Churchill made no mention of Ultra, the code cracking device which helped the Allies in a number of crucial campaigns. Eden and Macmillan's accounts of the Suez affair omit to mention their collusion with the Israelis. (Ted's forthcoming account will be the last of the players' versions of events). Mrs Thatcher's comprehensive-to-the-point-of-chronology The Downing Street Years doesn't spend much time on some of the juicier aspects of the Westland Affair that led to Michael Heseltine's (and nearly her own) resignation and misses out the Spycatcher affair entirely. Generosity to former "col-

leagues" (especially to those still alive and thus with access to the libel courts) is also a general rule. However Margaret Thatcher's contain more straight put-downs than all the others put together: Although she could be kind to some -James Callaghan was a "brilliant opponent", she was not so to others, especially those she called "those grandees". "Michael Heseltine's sense of priorities was gravely distorted by his personal ambitions and political obsessions". Jim Prior was the "false squire", whilst in following Peter Carrington with Francis Pvm as Foreign Secretary I had exchanged an amusing whig for a gloomy

But the nasticst handbagging is reserved for the grandest of the grandees. "I had no doubt servative government under



	Title		The exciting bits		Best put-down	Romance
7	My Early Life 1930; History of the Second World War 1948-54		Escaping from a Boer PoW camp and being wanted "dead or alive" with a price of £25 on his head.	Omits the "Ultra" code breaking system which helped to win the war.	Poles and Poland: "ingrat- itude over the certuries has led them through measureless suffering" and "too often led by the vilest of the vile".	"Events were soon to arise which were to absorb my thoughts a energies until 1908, when I married and lived happily ever afte
Clement Attice	As It Happened 1954	As dry and laconic as the man himself. Disappointed reviewers by revealing very little.	Labour's 1945 landslide and the dawn of the new Jerusalem – "quite an exciting day".	Terse about everything. Second World War (when he was deputy Prime Minister) gets just 30 pages.	On Ramsay Macdonald "His habit of telling me the poor opinion he had of many of his Cabinet colleagues made an un- pleasant impression."	Unexpectedly sweet in brief tale about court Violet (a litelong Tory in Italy and Richmond Park.
Alec Douglas- Home	The Way The Wind Blows 1976	Surprisingly good, considering his reticence. As much about angling as politics.	Meeting Hitler. "! noticed that his arms swung low, almost to his knees. it gave him a curiously anima! appearance."	The Suez affair. How he won the Tory leadership and became PM in 1963. No photograph of him with Neville Chamberlain.	"Enoch Powell had a fine mind which I flattered myself I could have harnessed to constructive policies. Perhaps I was wrong".	Married daughter of Headmaster at Eton "We became engag- having been to Epst together and won the Tote double."
Harold Wilson	The Labour Government 1964-70: A Personal Record 1971; Final Term 1979; The Making of a Prime Minister 1986	David Dimbleby asked into about his money. Wilson demanded why he didn't interrogate Heath about where he got money for yachts.	Midnight car drive with Charles de Gauße to try to secure Brilish entry into Europe.	Nothing on security services' plots to oust him. Little explanation of Marcia Williams' influence.	"I was taking a risk with George Brown. It was not that he drank more than anyone else but that he could not hold it."	"Told Mary! was go to become an MP a indeed, PM. Had sh believed this it woul have been the end o promising romance.
Edward Heath	The Course of My Life 1998	Aiready savaged by Thatcherites. Disingenuous praise from the left.	Second World War, Suez.	Why he lost so many elections.	Wilson, Thatcher, Enoch Powell	Nil
James Callaghan	Time and Charice (biblical) 1987	Brian Walden took him apart, otherwise reason- able. His biographer, Kenneth O Morgan says they are taken seriously by historians.	Killing off "In Place of Strife", Barbara Castle's attempt to reform the unions and rebase their relationship with Labour.	Julian Hodge, the con- troversial financier with whose Commercial Bank of Wales with he was associated for a time.	The Gang of Four: "it was deeply disappointing that prominent former members of my Cabinet should have deserted to the SDP"	Fell in love with the 16-year-old Audrey 1929. "I felt she wa quite unlike anyone had ever met before still think so."
Margaret Thatcher	The Downing Street Years 1993; The Path to Power 1995	Made enough money to fund the Thatcher	The leadership contests in 1975 and 1990. Beating the enemy without (the Falkdands War) and the enemy within (Arthur Scargil).	Not much at all about her mother Beatrice. Little on Westland. The Spycatcher affair is missed out altogether.	Neil Kinnock. Her last Cabinet, guilty of "treachery with a smile". Corrects Christ's Sermon on the Mount.	l ever made."
john Major	Sticky Wicket?	Predictable sneering. Probably will be written too early to see his rehabilitation.	Growing up with gnomes.	Don't expect him to be forthcoming on his conversations with Hesettine before he became Deputy PM in 1995.	The Bastards.	Electric meetings w Norma after affair w older woman.

that Ted now ought to go. He had lost three elections out of four. He himself could not change and he was too defensive of his own past record to see that a fundamental change of polices was needed ... Everyone except Ted knew that the main political problem was the fact that he was still leader". Ted has had two years since

this appeared in Margaret Thatcher's The Path To Power. He has no doubt a robust defence. But his timing also helps him here. When the last volume of Harold Macmillan's memoirs were published in 1973, ten years had passed since his resignation. The age of Supermac had attained a golden glow. People had forgotten the "sleaze" of Profumo and the failures of policy. Why? Because we were by then living through what felt like a much less successful period of Con-

one Edward Heath. When in mons. It looks like he, and not power he was seen as an abrasive, divisive, stubborn charac-

But now, as with Macmillan's historical embarrassments. we seem inclined to only remember his administration kindly. There are few around now who remember or care much about bitter but obscure historical struggles like the Upper Clyde shiphuilders, the Clay Cross martyrs or even the three-day week. But they do just about know that he took us into Europe and, hard though it is for any of those who have endured his sometimes distant manner, he is "cuddly", like the pandas he used to bring back from China.

Most important of all. events in Europe have been moving inexorably Ted's way. Pressure of events may see us in the Euro before Ted is finished with the House of Com-

"that woman", will end up on the winning side. We should not expect him not to remind us. This has the capacity to touch some raw nerves. Publishers often try to get political books out in time for the party conferences, for obvious reasons. Poor William Hague and his party managers will no doubt remember the unhelpful effect that the leaking of Margaret Thatcher's memoirs had during the 1993 Conservative Conference. Let us recall the reference to the then Prime Minister in the index to The Downing Street Years; "Major, John... suitability as successor to MT". History is as important in the Tory party of today as it used to be for Labour or the

Old, near-extinct volcanoes they may be, but they can still provide an entertaining, noisy

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ANC's lesson for Sinn Fein

COMMENTATORS and politicians, especially left-wing ones, have long made slightly facile comparison between Northern Ireland and various other troubled parts of the world. The Good Friday agreement and the visit of ministers in the South African government as an ANC delegation to Belfast have provided an ideal opportunity for the drawing of some more of these parallels. And, to be fair, we can appreciate the temptation. There are some neat - and telling - comparisons to be made. Uister's plantation Protestants and the Boer settlers of southern Africa do have some things in common, and not just a desire on both their parts to live in Orange Free States. Both groups were immigrants and a minority amongst the people they found themselves sharing a land with. They developed via a separate evolutionary branch from those they left behind. There is the odd cultural parallel - fundamentalist, puritunical religion and a "no surrender" or lauser mentality. The Stormont regime which ruled Ulster for five decades was guilty of exclusivism and gerrymandering and a casual attitude to civil rights, although it is right to say that it was not exactly in the same league as the complete denial of human rights that was apartheid. The Ulstermen and the voortrekkers both, perhaps with reason, distrusted the British. They also shared a less than sure touch in terms of public relations, but they could prove to be canny negotiators.

But illuminating about the character of some Ulstermen as this may he, it remains that Northern Ireland is not South Africa. The Good Friday agreement was not about finding a Nelson Mandela figure in Gerry Adams. David Trimble is not F W de Klerk. Ian Paisley is not Chief Buthelesi. The very idea is comical. The Northern Irish Unionists are a majority in that political entity. Whatever the historical legitimacy of the six counties it is now a political fact of life. Northern Ireland should remain in the United Kingdom for as long as a majority of its people so wish. The worst excesses of the old days of the Orange statelet have gone. The civil and political rights and cultural recognition - "parity of esteem" - that the nationalist minority yearned for are now, give or take a few bigots, taken for granted, as they should be.

So the situation in Northern Ireland is not closely analogous to South Africa, Or, we might add, the Middle East, Or, heaven help us, Bosnia or Zaire. Except in the one crucial respect. Thus far only the South Africans have managed anything like a stable transition to a new politics. This single dimension is the only point of comparison that is really worth making. And that is why the visit of the ANC dignitaries could prove valuable.

In fact this is not the first time that the South Africans have given the Northern Irish a master class in reconciliation. Last year. Ulster politicians met them in the Cape. We can only suppose that it did them some good, despite, or possibly

because of the lively talk that it generated out in the bush. At least they saw working a future that many could not have foreseen. So what can the

The most difficult of the issues is decommissioning. This was one of the main sticking points during the reform process in South Africa. Again it is worth stating that the Provisional IRA is not the military or moral equivalent of the ANC's armed wing. Umkhonto weSizwe. Whatever case there might have been behind the armed struggle in South Africa no such case exists in a place where democratic politics are practised. Here the analogy, if read across literally, is probably positively damaging. It would not really be on, for example, to integrate IRA and UDA men into the RUC or the Army. Quite apart from any practicalities there is the small question of confidence in the peace process. Even the loosest talk of this kind would do no one any favours for the coming referendum

The process of demilitarising Northern Ireland needs to go ahead soonor rather than later. We hope that the ANC will be advising Sinn Fein to help with that process by moving on this issue If they do then they will soon see the end of troops patrolling the streets. That is the real lesson of the South African peace process. As Nelson Mandela said: "As long as there venge, men and women who can put the future of their children first, who can put terrible episodes behind them in order to move on, this process can work as ours eventually did." Then these two parts of the world will have the most important thing in common - peace.

Party leaders run neck and neck

WHO CHOOSES William Hague's ties." Ffion, usually, She must have good taste. Mr Hague is an official Top Tie Wearer. His favourite appears to be bright yellow with blue and red flowers. We shouldn't be surprised at the turn of events. The leader of the Opposition has always been a smartly turnedout lad. The latest glittering prize (a tie pin) is a fitting tribute to his elegance. Indeed he may be beginning to rival his immaculately dressed aide Alan Duncan. We are certainly pleased that he has resisted the temptation to "dress down" as he "reaches out" with his fresh start. He must surely remember the bad press that his predecessor sometimes endured over his grey pinstripe chain-store suits. Mr Hague admires Lady Thatcher, who warded off allegations of frumpiness by boosting her wardrobe at Aquascutum.

In this contest, at least, Mr Hague seems to have had little competition from the Prime Minister. Mr Blair did. after all, once have to deny that his spin-doctors chose his ties for him for their value as a political gesture to middle England. This was supposed to be the reason why he habitually wore a blue number during the last election. We are happy to believe that it was just the first one that came to hand in the morning. But a fiercely competitive couple like the Blairs cannot afford to let the Hagues win any skirmish in the style wars. It is the Prime Minister's 45th birthday next Wednesday, Guess what Cherie's getting him,



German right turn

THE RESULTS of the German state elections in Saxony Anhalt are not only worrying because of the extreme right's 12 per cent in the polls. The success of the extreme right DVU also indicates problems for the established parties.

East German discontent among oung "new voters" with established politics was not channelled into votes for the socialist PDS, which fosters its East German identity among voters, but to a West German organisation campaigning mainly via letters and posters. Furthermore, the failure of the Social Democrats to gain more electoral support given the chaos and disintegration among the Christian Democrats provides further evidence that the so-called "Schröder effect" might have less substance than initially thought. Thus, while this state elecextreme-right party might soon be a footnote in history after the general election in September, the failure of the established parties to grasp the economic and social despair of a volatile East German electorate will not disappear that rapidly. MARTIN LODGE

Department of Government London School of Economics

DESIGNER Nazism. perhaps, (report. 28 April) but that ignores a dangerous undercurrent of anti-foreigner sentiment that has always had wide support in eastern Germany - nurtured by resentment at unfulfilled promises and unrealistic expectations by the eastern Germans themselves.

Sadly, that resentment against foreigners was all too obvious in the three years I spent as a company director in Frankfurt (Oder), near the Polish border. Attempts to nurture a cross-border culture (I was involved in many of these projects) were continuously sabotaged by a crossclass antipathy towards Poland that has its roots in German history.

Even I - a good WASP - experienced many verbal attacks and had my car door kicked in - and not by the skinheads but rather by more frespectable" members of society. The hostility frequently displayed towards my Indian girlfriend during her

LETTERS

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vented her from ever moving there.

All in all, an unpleasant experience, but how much worse for east-It really is time for the "silent majority" in eastern Germany to quash this nasty spectre and to take responsibility for their society and its future in an international community. KRIS SCHNACK Richmond, Surrey

Books about criminals

SHOULD convicted criminals proftion and the 12 per cent vote for an it from writing books about their crime? This is not an easy question and the recent controversy over publica- 1 WRITE to express dismay at the tions related to Mary Bell is not surprising. But we were surprised to read that the Home Secretary is looking at changes to the law to prevent them from doing so (report, 27 April).

The law is already in place. The Criminal Justice Act 1988 (s.93A) makes it a money-laundering offence for any person to assist a criminal to deal with his or her proceeds of crime or makes proceeds available to the criminal. This has been the law since February 1995 and it applies to crime carried out before the Act came into force (s.102(4)). What is more, the proceeds (whether generated for the person who renders the assistance or the criminal) are li-

able to be confiscated (s.71-72). There is no doubt that proceeds of crime in this context includes profits from publication of a book about the commission of crime. See the litigation in 1991 surrounding the proceeds of the publication of the book about George Blake's escape from orison (Randle and Poner (1991), Independent Law Reports, 26 March).

Consequently, it is open to the Crown Prosecution Service to prosecute a convicted criminal (as an aider and abettor) and the publishers of the convicted criminal's publications for money-laundering. If tion of the proceeds of the publication. If the publisher has not yet paid any money to the criminal but is open to the Attorney General to apply to the High Court for an injunction to restrain the payment under the general power of the court to enjoin the commission of crime, namely money-laundering. ANDREW MITCHELL

KENNEDY TALBOT Barristers

London EC4

Abbey sacking Neary as Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey.

For his inspired selection and conducting of the funeral music for Diana, Princess of Wales, Martin earned not just the nation's but the whole world's gratitude and admiration, while only last month, at Westminster Abbey's memorial service for Sir George Solti, he offered further proof of his eminence in the musical life of this country. He conducted Kodaly's powerful Missa Brevis and the little-known but lovely Bruckner motet (his own suggestion) which began what proved to be an-

other very moving ceremony. Three years ago. Dr Neary made an important contribution to the celebrations devised around the tercentenary of his most famous predecessor at the abbey, the composer Henry Purcell. Purcell had his problems with the dean and chapter of the day, but the authorities were wise enough not to dispense with his services as a consequence.

To terminate in such a brutal manner Dr Neary's contribution to British musical life seems a grave miscarriage of natural justice. I urge the Dean, Dr Wesley Carr, and his colleagues to avoid the embarrassment

visits to Frankfurt effectively pre- convicted each is liable to confisca- and delays surrounding a personal appeal to the Queen by working out, even at this late hour, an accommodation which would demonstrate ern German residents of other race. proposing to make a payment, it is the Dean's magnanimity and retain for the abbey the services of a most distinguished musician. HUMPHREY BURTON London W14

Price of education

IN CRITICISING my reference. (letter, 21 April) to price sensitivity in higher education, Professor Sir Graham Hills (letter, 23 April) makes the extraordinary claim that "there are no prices in higher education". The students who are unable to

they take jobs in order to reduce their debts are paying a price; twice over. Applications to Scottish universities from students based in the Republic of Ireland are down by 33 per cent next year: we have just introduced tuition fees, while the Republic has just abolished them! The prices are there, but perhaps you only notice them if your resources are scarce.

Professor Hills should not confuse

the method of salary determination for academics with the important question of where the necessary resources should come from. I could agree with him that students are (eventually) important beneficiaries of higher education. However, the main beneficiaries are the majority of our citizens who gain from the productive work of the scientists. engineers and other professionals who contribute to our civilised society. That is what we all pay our taxes for. The business sector benefits more than most from higher education. This is why the AUT has suggested that business should contribute more. PK BURGESS

Immediate Past-President Association of University Teachers

Snowdonia railway

I AM surprised at the objections by the Ramblers and others to the prospect of a new railway through the Snowdonia National Park (report, 27

Railways are in principle far better than roads as a means of access to national parks. The visual impact of a track with occasional trains is much less than that of a road with random traffic of equivalent people-density. Roads and car parks take up hugely more macadamised surface area than rails and stations. Rail travellers will not spoil the view by parking machinery in unauthorised places.

If Snowdonia has an inheritance of railway alignments, a huge investment by our great-grandparents, it should take advantage of the new generation of cheap, bus-sized. railcars and get tougher with cars (smaller car parks, higher charges, no stopping elsewhere and so on).
ANDREW GORDON

Labour menace

THE prospect of Labour MPs doorstepping voters, or worse, catching them out with cold call telephone techniques (leading article, 22 April), is not one which will be welcomed by most members of the public. If it is intended that there should be 100 such victims a week, does this herald a new era where the traditional doorstep enemies - Jehovah's Witnesses, door-to-door salesmen, and charity collectors - will be eclipsed by slick and youthful New Labour representatives? My only hope is that it rains on "Cool Britannia". MATTHEW GOLD

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Wolverhampton, West Midlands

BSE: the truth at last

LET ME get this straight. BSE is not the fault of farmers, it's not the fault of the Ministry of Agriculture or consumers and it's certainly not the fault of the animal-feed manufactures ("Feed firms deny causing BSE", 28 April). Well that just leaves one involved party: it must be the cows' fault. ANDREW McILRAE London SW15

Coals to Coventry? Modern cliché-mongers can do even better



THE OTHER day on Radio 4's The News Quiz Jeremy Hardy was questioning the use of the phrase. The doctor was handing out pills as if they were Smarties", and said it was nonsensical, because he had never come across a doctor who handed out Smarties to patients.

I expect this is probably because most of the doctors who started by handing out Smarties to their patients are now behind bars, but, that apart, I think Jeremy Hardy is quite right to feel riled by the unthinking use of such phrases. There are lots of these wornout images referring to different kinds of activity which started out fresh and colourful and have ended up as tired and sagging clichés. A lot of them have been around so long we hardly even think what they mean any more. Sending people to Coventry ... taking coals to Newcastle ... spoiling the ship for a ha'porth of tar ... putting the cart before the horse ... we still use these expressions as automatically as we cat crisps. Why haven't we got any more modern activities to refer to, something a bit more recent than taking coals to Newcastle?

Well, we have, is the answer, and they have become clichés already. Here's an example. Opening envelopes. If a person gets a reputation for going to every party he or she can get invited to, whether it is a launch, start of a show or first night, what do we say? We say. "He would turn up for the opening of an envelope." The first time we heard it, we thought it was quite funny. The second, we thought, Oh, it's catching on. The tenth time, we thought, Yeah, yeah, all right. The fifteenth time, we thought, Oh,

Another example. When something is really boring, really boring, really REALLY bonng, what would you rather do instead? "It was so boring, I would actually rather have ... rather have ..." what? Watched paint dry! That's it! Watching paint dry and going to the opening of an envelope. No more, please.

Ditto standing to the right of Genghis Khan, He's so reactionary, he's to the right of ... yes, Genghis Khan. Couldn't we at least vary it a bit? I long to hear someone described as being to the right of Tamburlaine the Great, or even Attila the Hun, but no - even there we have to stick to the same old tyrant.

Here's another one, which I think I heard on Loose Ends recently. (Well, it's a theatrical cliché, so it must have been.) When a man has so much charisma, so much aura, so much magic that whatever he does is fascinating, what would people pay to watch him do? Got it? "He is such a great performer that people would pay to hear him read the telephone directory." I suppose that means read it out loud, as a performer would have to be stunningly charismatic for anyone to want to watch him read it to himself...

But the most wonderful activity-based

cliché of all is the one that concerns inefficiency. Yes, inefficiency. It is often said of someone that he is so incompetent that he couldn't ... he couldn't ... (has everyone shouted out the answer by now?) he is so incompetent that he couldn't organise a ... a what? ... Very good! A piss-up in a brew-

Well, now, to be serious for a minute, my father was a brewer, and I hung around the brewery a lot in my early days, and I never remember anyone having anything remotely like a piss-up in the brewery. There was so much alcohol in the air, and so much beer generally available, that I'm sure everyone was faintly stewed the whole time and the draymen more than somewhat, but there didn't seem much point in having a piss-up there. It's the last place you'd want to have a bit of a knees-up. There would be no point. It would be a bit like having a fancy dress party in Madame Tussaud's. The nearest my

father ever got to having a piss-up in the brewery was retiring to the sample cellar with his chums, trying a half pint of the latest brew, and discussing where, ourside the brewery, they might have a bit of a time. My father would sometimes come home from pub events (darts matches, etc) a little merry but from the brewery, never.

Or hardly ever.

Or, as he used to say, once every Preston Guild.

Now, THERE'S a cliché which has never quite become hackneyed. I give you the toast. Down with giving out Smarties, opening envelopes, watching paint

dry, standing next to Genghis Khan, piss-ups in breweries and up with the Preston Guild. Whatever that is, A reader writes: Hold on, hold on! Have

you written this entire article just to ask readers to explain a Preston Guild to you? Miles Kington writes: Yes.



Why I'll be voting 'no' in the referendum for a London mayor



HAMISH **MCRAE**

OWER TO THE BOROUGHS

T THE RISK of sounding deeply unfashnable, it seems to me to be nuts for Lon-

We are going to get one, of course. The vhole publicity campaign to pick one - the anvassing of names, the "what I would do" rticles by possible candidates, the TV debate is founded on the presumption that it is a he case against executive action: while peoare presented with specific goodies such as ... we will co-ordinate transport policies" they tend not to see that as bureaucrats intervening in the market.

So, anyone making the case against has a hard job. But there seem to me to be at least seven reasons why, at best, the appointment of a mayor is irrelevant to London's needs, ing on private sector services. The most viand, at worst, will actually be damaging to its brant bit of the London economy will have

The starting point of the case against is "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". The London economy has had a very successful run in recent. years. Perhaps the best measure of the success of a place is whether people go and live. there, and the low point in London's popu-🙀 lation was reached in the early 1980s. Since then, it has been rising slowly. I would not claim that this revival is the direct result of the abolition of the GLC, but it does show that the economy can prosper under the present arrangement.

Point two flows from this. One of the effects. of getting rid of a single political body for London has been to create greater competition between the boroughs. They have more functions, attract more attention and, gradually, have lifted the quality of their performance. Of course, not all are wonderful; far. from it. But there is a much greater emphasis on competent administration at a borough level than there was under the old system. Recreating a mayor will inevitably attract political attention, and since the space of mind Angeles, and about the same as Paris and Tokyo. Londoners are prepared to devote to local pol-But the bits which work rather badly (the road from the boroughs.

Three, the horough system is particularly suited to London, for it has never been a single region. Historically, it is a two-centre town, with Westminster handling the administrative business of the country and the Ciry handling the money side. The rest of the agglomeration consisted of small towns and villages, which merely happen to be vote in a decent one first time round. Then, physically connected, and which have now rown to the size of cities. The large London boroughs have bigger populations than way in which London is a mix of marketplaces, some countries: Bromley is bigger in pop-each part of the global economy. And the dud ulation than Iceland. Now, I am not sug- will stumble about, mouthing political slogans, gesting that Bromley should have a seat at while undermining all of the astounding the United Nations, merely that the bor- progress made by the city in the past 15 years.

oughs are quite big enough to be developed as important political entities, attracting good people and helping foster more vibrant local communities.

-Instead, point four, we will create a new focus of power, which sadly will also be a new seed-bed for corruption. This will not happen straightaway but gradually emerge, for any list of politicians will turn up wrong 'uns: the Tories had their share of sleaze and even the squeaky-clean New Labour lot are starting to fray at the edges. Even if mayors one and two prove okay, sooner or later there will be the little favours for friends, the juicy contracts, the little feathering of nests that sadly characterise local politics everywhere. Why create a new focus for corruption when we don't need to?

Why also, point five, create a new focus for waste? People inevitably spend other people's money with slightly less attention than they do their own. However cautious, however wise these people prove to be, there will be some waste. Someone is going to want the equivalent of the Lord Chancellor's new wall-

And someone else has to pay for it, point six. Who? The answer, and it does not matter how the money is collected, must be the ood idea. It is also quite difficult to argue private sector. But, of course, the main improvements in London over the past 15 ple will accept the general proposition that years have been in private sector services: nore bureaucracy is a bad thing, when they everything from better restaurants and smarter shops to the great clubbing industry. Having a new political body will inevitably cost some money. Necessary items such as housing or food are not going to get any cheaper. so the money to pay for the mayor, the support staff, the offices, the limousines and so on will come out of this discretionary spend-

> What's needed is not top-down politics, but bottom-up commercial acumen

to make a disproportionate contribution to

Even concerning the things where a mayor might be thought to have a useful co-ordinating role, there are reasons to suspect that an injection of politics may do more harm than. good. Take transport, point seven. There is a general perception that London's public transport is bad, which seems to me to be unfair as people compare it with cities a quarter of its size. There is certainly room for improvement, but the system is better than New York and Los cal control, while the bits which work pretty well (the taxi service, the airports and air service, and Eurostar) are the result of commercial acumen. What is needed is not top-down politics. but bottom-up commercial acumen.

Still unconvinced? Sorry, I tried. We are. barring a miracle, going to get a mayor, oldfashioned nostrum that it is. We might even sooner or later, we will screw up and vote in a dud, someone who doesn't understand the

Art cannot serve spiritual ends when it has been created in sin

The controversy over Eric Gill's sculptures in Westminster Cathedral was initiated by

Margaret Kennedy. Here she explains why she felt it necessary to speak out

JUST before Easter I was watching a religious programme Lent in the Park on the BBC before going off to Church, I was shocked to find Cardinal Hume under a "station of the cross" at Westminster Cathedral. The stations of Christ's passion placed evenly around the cathedral. It is therefore impossible to move away from them or not have them in eyesight.

The cardinal was extolling the virtues of these works carved by a known paedophile, Eric Gill. I sat and thought, "Surely the cardinal knows this, and if he does, how could he promote Gill's work?" Did he not care that Catholic Survivors of Sexual Abuse would be, and were, very offended by his omitting to mention this fact, and his failing also to speak of Gill's daughters whom he raped and sodomised? The cardinal thus consigned all survivors today to obscurity and invisibility.

I wrote to the Catholic Herald; my letter was published and taken up the national press. I am not surprised by the enormous amount of media attention my letter caused. I challenged the cardinal, the Catholic Church, Gill the man and paedophile, Gill the great artist, Gill the so-called holy man.

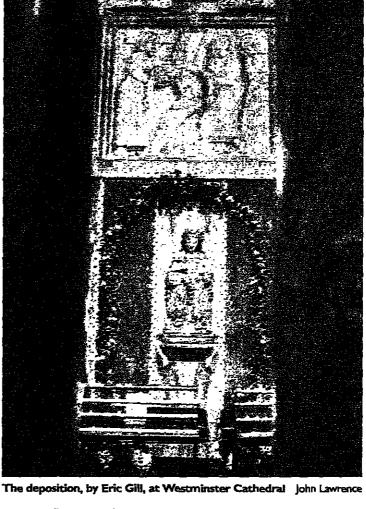
But my concern is not essentially about Gill's art, which I agree is of substantial merit (when he does not digress into pornography). My concern is with the juxtaposition of Gill's art (and therefore the man), Westminster Cathedral and prayer. And also with the invisibility of Gill's victims and all Catholic (or Christian) victims by patriarchal churches. It is a pastoral/spiritual concern not an aesthetic one.

The Catholic Church hides the full truth, something it is skilled at doing. particularly when it comes to clergy paedophilia. The victims must languish, carrying their pain with no understanding from their churches.

No published discussion on Eric Gill has chosen to focus on the pain of the victims of child sexual abuse or why we were angry at the cardinal's programme on Gill. Survivors were completely left out in the media coverage, redemption through the good merits of his artistic skills.

The reason for this was well explained by Marjorie Orr in The Independent on Sunday: "Artists and child abusers share a talent for deconstructing reality and reconstructing an often beautiful pseudo-reality in its place." I would add that cardinals, priests, and ministers of all denominations have this skill to the highest degree.

Gill "re-constructed" his reality so as to continue his sexual depravity; the "dissonance" he felt about what he was doing had to be alleviated. The Catholic Church with its "genital and patriarchal theology" was a gift to a paedophile and



a man who believed that his needs were validated by the hierarchy. His children paramount and women and children were objects for sexual experimentation. Flavours of this still abound today, giving other paedophiles reinforcement for

would have had no means of getting anyone to believe what Gill was doing. It was distressing to read of Gill's grandson saying the family saw Gill's activities as "something of a family joke" Theology speaks of Christ being the (Daily Mail, 16 April). How can sodomy

We do not need to be reminded by every cathedral pillar that the Church favours paedophile art and maybe even the paedophile

bridegroom and of his consummated of children, bestiality and the exploitalove for the Church, the Bride. Some theologians hold that it is the male priest who plants the seed (semen) of faith in the female Church. This could be the not have female priests, we have no pe-God's seed.

Gill, as do many present day priest abusers, used this teaching to his advantage. It justified his "love" for women and children. The intercourse became divine, an echo of God's love in sending (seeding) Jesus to his people. We now know that so-called "spiritual" and "holy" paedophiles very often use these spiritual reasons to coerce victims. "God doesn't mind me doing this, sex is holy. I am a holy man, I wouldn't hurt you. God is my friend."

Gill probably used this reasoning with his children and other victims, backed up by inviting cleries to Ditchling so that women and children could see he was to her bed so

tion of young maidservants be seen as a joke?

It strikes me as very suspicious that Gill was so popular with celibate priests reason why the Catholic Church does who visited him. His brand of genital, penile theology must have been a archal Church defends him. It might also explain why some artists and clergy can feel no discomfort at Gill's stations while survivors do. We do not have a sexual/genital/penile focused theology or world view!

The stations of the cross are intended to help us to call to mind Christ's crucifixion and passion, they are an aid to prayer and meditation. As one letter eloquently put it, as we glance up at them, all we see, superimposed on Gill carvings, are visions

of Eric Gill pinning a frightened daughter we are talking of a holy cathedral. We as Christian survivors deserve to have a place, to pray, to feel at peace, when peace evades us, not to be reminded by

that he could enjoy his sexual conquest.

Even the young maids were at risk. They

tried to resist, Gill wrote in his diary:

"[they were] modest in refusing to un-

dress". He liked them as, "nice girls,

about 15, dressed as nuns in blue serge

We are not talking of an art gallery,

and two plaits of bair."

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every cathedral pillar that the Church favours paedophile art and indeed maybe even the paedophile. It has been said that we are "projecting our own anxieties on to a work of art". This is not what we are doing. Many, including the Cathedral clerics, have said that we can and should separate Gill's private sexual life from Gill the artist. But you cannot separate Gill

the artist from Gill the paedophile, especially as you gaze on a piece of work and try to pray! The passion of Christ is meaningful to us, as we can relate our own passion to his as we pray. This can be enormously supportive to us in times of deep pain. As Clifford Longly put it in the Tablet, "The question is not whether these carvings are beautiful, but whether they are fit for their purpose." Those who do separate Gill the

paedophile from his art indicate, by the level of separation, their level of denial about what he did and what the children suffered, and what we too have suffered.

We are accused of wanting to desecrate the cathedral by requesting the removal of the stations. It would not descerate, for the cathedral is already desecrated by their very presence, it would cleanse. It would be an opportunity for Church leaders to demonstrate an intolerance of child sexual assaults. rape and buggery. It would be a fitting recognition of Gill's victims and all victims/survivors of child sexual abuse.

Must we leave all protest to Christian Survivors of Sexual Abuse, or to Les-Whittingham, of the Midland Hotel in Morecambe, who is refusing to display a Gill fresco as demanded by his council. He says, "We've told them we don't want it back up, because Gill was a pae dophile." If an hotelier can take a moral stance, why can't the cardinal? Are the "holy" people and artists right and the victims and ordinary people wrong.

We are convinced that the work of a man who exploited women and children for his own sexual perversions should not be in a cathedral house of God or extolled, lucest is inscribed in every tablet, on every pillar. We want them down.

Forget dumbing down - books and bookshops are moving up



ANDREW MARR

SPRINGTIME READING

TS SPRING, of a sort. Minds um to dew-fresh parks and un-splashed squares, of lolling Congride Open-air sport and nooching by riverbanks. All of which is fine, but second-best. for me, there is no better place. a the world than a good bookbop, with the smell of fresh cofee in the air, staff who know. heir stuff, and time for a long. fiernoon-wasting browse. kep those shutters down,

lank out Nature and enjoy If this seems odd, then all I an say is that is that I am early in good company. Howrer you cut the ligures, books re big business and still growig. Sales are up. There has en a modest 15 per cent fall whe number of titles pubshed in 1997 but that comes the back of a huge rise in the course of the decade, from just evitable Wisden, but also Peter under 64,000 titles published in 1990 to more than 100,000 now. And though independent bookshops are under pressure, the march of the big specialist stores, above all Waterstone's. which recently effectively took over Dilions, looks unstop-It is a big cultural change in

my adulthood - and a very cheering one, too. When people talk about how economic growth has improved the quality of life for the majority - better food, better clothes, better housing - they should remember better books and better bookshops, too. Can this trading up, this en-

thusiasm not merely for bookshops but for better books, be proven? In the BookTrack bestsellers list earlier this month the top five original fiction tilles, in order, were John Grisham's The Street Lawyer, Nick Homby's About a Boy, Joanna Trollope's Other People's Children, Barbara Vine's The Chimney Sweeper's Boy and Toni Morrison's Paradise. In the mass-market fiction list were Kate Atkinson's Human Croquet, Charles Frazier's Cold Mountain, Helen Fielding's Bridget Jones's Diary, PD James's A Cenain Justice and Louis de Bernieres' Captain

Corelli's Mandolin. Among the top-five hardback non-fiction utiles were a. Code. All of us, similarly, are BBC cooking book and the in- aware of the huge popularity of

Ackroyd's Life of Thomas More and Ted Hughes's Birthday Letters. And in the paperback nonfiction list are The Little Book of Cahn, John Gray's Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus, Jean-Dominique Bauby's Diving Bell and Butterfly, Frank McCourt's Angela's Ashes and the Department of Transport's Highway Code:

It is pretty typical of such lists in recent years and it tells us a lot about ourselves. I the list, but I bave read most.

Overall, the remarkable thing about these lists is their quality. Of the ten top hardback and mass-market works of fiction, five are unquestionably serious, proper and highly intelligent books - the new

emotional and social self-help

books of the Mars and Venus

Hornby, the Toni Morrison, the Kate Atkinson, Charles Frazier's Cold Mountain and the delightful Captain Corelli. Of the rest, three, the John haven't read all the books on Grisham, the Barbara Vine and the P D James come from

Book-buying isn't, as I used to think, hopelessly old-fashioned or uncommon

There have been several newspaper columns devoted to the phenomenon of The Little Book of Calm, dwelling on what its popularity says about our frenetic lifestyles, our alleged selfishness, and what have you. To my mind, however, the most important thing is that it costs £1.99 and rests, mostly, just by the till. In real literary worth it can be safely bracketed with the clean prose, muscular construction and sense of narrative achieved by the DoT's Highway

the higher and more literate slopes of Mount Whodunnit; the Joanna Trollope is shrewd, tough and contemporary in the hest sense; and Bridget Jones, who began life at The Independent, is a brilliantly funny and acute take on thirtysomething single femalehood. One of them will be read in a century's time - Captain Corelli and maybe more. Not one of these books is actually bad. Turning to that non-fiction

list, is it not, in fact, extraordinary that a life of Thomas More, heavyweight in every

top five, even a relatively slowselling one? And how does it correlate to our fashionable view of ourselves as a postliterate, dumbed-down society that Ted Hughes is up there, too - and available in scores of places such as airport bookstalls, as well as Oxbridge or camous outlets? Angela's Ashes is also a wonderful work of summoned memory and literary nostalgia. The Diving Bell and the Butterfly was better as a story of human courage than as an actual book - but again, it was unquestionably a truly serious

sense, makes it into any kind of

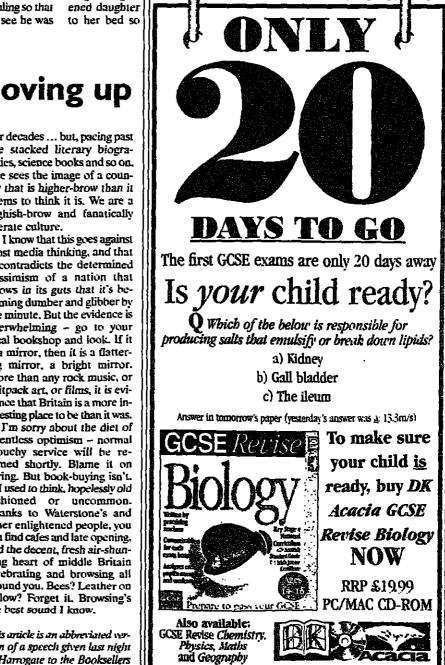
Our literary editor, Boyd Tonkin, has recently compared bestseller lists in the late Nineties with those of the early Eighties and confirms my impression, which is that the average standard of novels being sold is much higher. The same is true, up to a point, of nonfiction: see the huge growth in popular science, meaning highly sophisticated, literate essays by truly serious people, like Stephen Pinker, Oliver Sacks, Matt Ridley and Richard Dawkins.

There are counter-indicators, such as the depressing spread of books about warfare. encroaching and eating up the history shelves; and the New Age idiot spiritualism, which seems to take up the same basement corners reserved for Marxism and feminism in earlier decades ... but, pacing past the stacked literary biographies, science books and so on, one sees the image of a country that is higher-brow than it seems to think it is. We are a highish-brow and fanatically literate culture.

most media thinking, and that it contradicts the determined pessimism of a nation that knows in its guts that it's becoming dumber and glibber by the minute. But the evidence is overwhelming - go to your local bookshop and look. If it is a mirror, then it is a flattering mirror, a bright mirror. More than any rock music, or Britpack act, or films, it is evidence that Britain is a more interesting place to be than it was.

I'm sorry about the diet of relentless optimism - normal grouchy service will he resumed shortly. Blame it on spring. But book-buying isn't. as I used to think, hopelessly old fashioned or uncommon. Thanks to Waterstone's and other enlightened people, you can find cases and late opening. and the decent, fresh air-shunning heart of middle Britain cerebrating and browsing all around you. Bees? Leather on willow? Forget it, Browsing's the best sound I know.

This article is an abbreviated version of a speech given last night in Harrogate to the Booksellers Association.



available from all good software retailers or your DEFL Advisor

James McIntosh **Patrick**

His great cycle of the seasons Winter in Angus (1935), followed by Springtime in Eskdale, Midsummer in East Fife and Autumn Kinnordy, all shown at the Royal Academy and purchased respectively for the Tate Gallery, the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, Aberdeen and Dundee Art Gallery, along with An Exmoor Farm (Ferens Art Gallery, Hull) and the slightly earlier Glencoe, led many to hail

These great and sculptural landscapes were as much landscapes of the mind as of place and, apart from Glencoe, depicted the cycle of man's life and activities as well as his influence The Pass of Glencoe (1933-34),

All were painted in the studio, built up from acute obser- his season cycle in being based vation and on-the-spot notes. on two earlier etchings - The The landscapes, already shaped by man's activities, were remade by the artist, intrusive details eliminated and new facts introduced; the sense of locus mental terms, and, regardless of heightened whilst the specifics the broading history of the of identifiable topography were reduced.

The son of an architect, Andrew Patrick, James began drawing seriously and experimenting with etching whilst still at the Morgan Academy, Dundee, prior to going to Glas-



Patrick: sense of locus

JAMES McINTOSH PATRICK gow School of Art, where he was for many years the doyen completed the four-year course of Scottish landscape painters. in three, following it with a

him to the attention of Harold Dickins, a London-based printdealer and publisher, and it was as an etcher that he made his first reputation. However, when, in the wake of the collapse of Wall Street, the market for etchings entirely evaporated be, like others of his contemporaries - Charles Tunnicliffe, S.R. Badmin and Graham Sutherland him as a modern-day Brueghel. among them - had to refocus his life totally. He turned to oil painting and

quickly established a new reputation as a landscapist of outstanding power and perception. on the countryside around him. now in the collection of Texas Instruments, was different from Three Sisters of Glencoe and The Pass of Glencoe from the Valley. It depicts the bleak and yet exhilarating landscape in ele-Glencoe massacre, only the fittest could even begin to contemplate survival in such surroundings. It was this painting which, having been rejected by the Royal Academy, prompted Dickins to introduce Patrick to Ernest Dawbarn at the Fine Art Society, who have promoted his work ever since, and where his son, Andrew, is now managing director.

With the Second World War, Patrick was commissioned into the Camouflage Corps, and served in North Africa and Italy. Unable to cart canvas. paints and easels around with him, he developed a pen, ink and watercolour sketching technique of great fluency and charm, and over a hundred of these sketches were exhibited at the Fine Art Society in 1946. Post-war he took his can-

year's post-diploma study. His precociousness brought

> Elemental: Patrick's The Pass of Glencoe, 1933-34 vases out into the landscape and worked direct from nature. These landscapes, always deft and mesmerising for the way in which they capture even the subtlest mances of light and shade, never quite regained the power of his earlier works, whose universality was now subsumed in the specifics of the Angus landscape. For the next 40 years Patrick

and his easel were a familiar sight in all weathers in the fields, lanes and hedgerows around Dundee. Once, when asked how he managed to keep warm in winter, he replied that he didn't, he just "kept cold". When advancing years made it difficult for him to sustain the demands of oil-paint and canvas he took once again to watercolour, but this time working on a large scale and with an opacity quite different from his earlier sketching style. It was only in the last few years that failing eyesight forced him to give up work altogether.

town of Dundee overlooking the

of war, in 1939, Patrick bought

"The Shrubbery" in his home

Tay, and it was here, apart from the war years, that he was to live and work for the rest of his life, and it was in this house that he died. A City Garden (1940) and The Tay Bridge from my Studio Window (1948) are two of the finest paintings directly associated with his new home, the former more than holding its own in the exhibition "La Ville" at the Pompidou Centre a few years ago.

Despite his early reputation, the pressures of the modern movement coupled with his evident popularity, contributed post-war to Patrick's work being sidelined by the cognoscenti; his subject-matter was deemed no longer to be interesting and his skills of little relevance. Despite this he was continuously in demand as a teacher and lecturer both at Hospitalfields and Dundee College of Art, and until well Shortly before the outbreak into his eighties he was still

conducting Saturday morning did not see fit to acquire one of

The record of his exhibits at the Royal Scottish Academy is also remarkable, stretching back almost without interruption to 1926. It seemed that as his reputation declined nationally it burgeoned locally, until he emerged as a sort of guru, a role he fitted perfectly with his shock of white hair and the jade talisman he wore around his neck; his strongly held opinions enabling him to pronounce on any subject.

The measure of his local standing was borne out in 1987 when a retrospective exhibition of his work was seen by over 110,000 people when it was shown in Dundee, Aberdeen and the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, and again last year when a smaller, but long overdue, show was mounted at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh. It is ironic that, although the Tate Gallery acquired Winter in Angus in 1935, the Scottish National Galleries

his paintings for another 50

Photograph: Fine Art Society (Collection: Texas Instruments)

His appointment as OBE a few weeks before his 90th birthday was belated official recognition of James McIntosh Patrick's achievement, but of far more value to him were the tributes of the public who flocked in their tens of thousands to his exhibitions, the awards of honorary doctorates from Dundee and Aberdeen, and the awareness that paintings he had often struggled to sell were regularly changing hands for five-figure sums. So too was the fact that, in addition to his son, his daughter. Ann, and his three grandchildren all carry on the creative artistic traditions of the family in one form or another.

Peyton Skipwith

James McIntosh Patrick, artist: born Dundee 4 February 1907; ARE 1933; ROI 1949: ARSA 1949, RSA 1957: married 1933 Janet Watterston (died 1983; one son, one daughter); died Dundee 7 April 1998.

Hans-Joachim Pabst von Ohain

THE NAME Hans-Joachim Pabst von Ohain is not in the history books and it is unlikely that many German schoolchildren learn anything about him, let alone British or American children. Yet he deserves to be remembered at least as much as Sir Frank Whittle, Britain's jet pioneer, as von Ohain was responsible for the first jet engine to be used successfully to fly an aircraft.

The place was Rostock-Marienehe airfield on Germany's Baltic coast. The date was 27 August 1939. Erich Warsitz, an ace test pilot, took off in the Heinkel He-178 experimental aircraft. Thus he made the world's first turbo-jet flight, powered by von Ohain's centrifugal-flow HeS-3b engine.

Von Ohain was born, the son of a captain in the Kaiser's army. in 1911. Although he studied physics at Göttingen University, he was caught up, like many others of his generation, with enthusiasm for aviation, which was new, glamorous and rapidly developing. Germany was not allowed, under the Versailles Treaty, to build or own military aircraft but much effort was put

into civil aviation and gliding. German secret testing of military planes was carried on in Soviet Russia. Von Ohain's home town of Dessau in central Germany was involved in the new technology of aviation. Soon after Adolf Hitler took over Germany in 1933, the Third Reich returned to military aviation and Ohain's interest in the theory of jet propulsion was encouraged. He worked for Professor Ernst Heinkel, the aeronautical engineer and entrepreneur. Already in September 1937 the excited von Ohain called his boss to witness a demonstration of his new engine.

After the outbreak of war in 1939 von Ohain's research acquired a new urgency, although Hitler failed to fully appreciate the importance of jet propulsion. Von Ohain turned from the concept of the centrifugal compressor and began developing the idea of an axial com-

powered the Messerschmitt 262, which was the first military jet to be produced in quantity. It saw action in 1944, being hampered towards the war's end in 1945 by shortage of fuel and the Luftwaffe's lack of consistency in deciding whether it should be a bomber or a fighter. Heinkel also designed the jet-propelled He 162, the socalled Volksjager or "People's Fighter", only about 100 of hich were built.

German jet aireraft were ahead of anything their opponents had and the Allies sent special teams to round up as many of the designers as possible. The Americans overran such key towns as Dessau, Jena and Leipzig. When they withdrew to make way for the Soviets, they ordered the key technologists to go with them. In the circumstances, von Ohain was no doubt happy to find himself being airlifted to the United States rather than the Soviet Union. Von Ohain researched for

the US Air Force on advanced air breathing propulsion systems. He was rewarded with American citizenship in 1957 and was appointed Chief Scientist at Wright-Putterson Air Force Base Aerospace Research Laboratories in Dayton, Ohio, In 1991 von Ohain shook hands with Sir Frank Whittle at the US National Academy of Engineering when they were both awarded the prestigious biennial Charles Stark Draper Prize. The prize. first awarded in 1989, focuses world attention on the central role of engineers in advancing human welfare. Neither von Ohain nor Whittle had been aware of the other's work before 1945.

Von Ohain retained an active interest in his field to the end of his life. He died is Melbourne, on Florida's "space"

Hans-Joachim Pabst von Ohain engineer: born Dessau, Germany 14 December 1911: married (one son. two daughters, one stepson); died pressor. His new jet engine Melbourne, Florida B March 1998.

Douglas McIntosh

claim for more public expenditure in London compared with Scotland - where 24 per cent more is spent per capita - candidates for the position of mayor of the capital have paid tribute to the quality of Scottish education. "We admire Scottish schools, but why should we subsidise them, when they have a parliament of their own?"

Personally. I would be nersuperior to English education. I doubt if it is any longer true. But until the 1970s a generalisation could be objectively sustained that Scottish education a multitude of practical educahad a combination of learning and discipline to be envied. ments of teachers of individual This was partly due to a crop of outstanding directors of education in local authorities and the chief among them was Douglas McIntosh, for 22 years varied from teacher to teacher Director of Education in Fife. A succession of his deputies and assistants, such as Hugh Fairley.

hugely influential.

1961 book Educational Guidance and the Pool of Ability broke new ground. The Scaling of Teachers' Marks and Estimates (first published in 1949, and updated, in collaboration with David Walker and Donald Mackay, in 1962) was seminal vous about claiming that Scot- for a number of English protish education in 1998 is jects, such as Stewart Mason's

work in Leicestershire. McIntosh's theme was that estimates of pupils' attainments in school subjects are needed for tional purposes; the assesspupils provide the best guide available as to these pupils' order of merit. Unfortunately, the standard and scatter of marks and from school to school; and, while teachers' assessments might be improved in this respect, it was doubtful whether

AS A WAY of softening their and James Michie, Director they could ever be steadied to self has practically no meaning." for Aberdeen, left to become such an extent that they could be a sure basis for the serious de-McIntosh's influence was cisions involved in selection for not confined to Scotland. His secondary education of the

award of leaving certificates. McIntosh believed that there was no escape from the conclusion that teachers' marks should be used for such purposes, but only if they had been "scaled" in such a way that the estimates of different teachers could be considered comparable.

Scaling had already been employed to some extent, but McIntosh saw that it would have been more widely used but for two relatively groundless fears. The first was that it was a tool that could be handled only by the expert mathematical statistician: the second was that prohibitively laborious calculation would be involved. McIntosh's work did much to dispel these fears and give simple explanations for the basis of scaling and clear instructions as to how to calculate it.

"An examination mark by it-

he wrote.

The traditional belief that it has an absolute value, so many per cent of a possible or "perfect" performance, is without foundation. All that a mark of 60 per cent conveys is that it is one of a set of marks which have a range within the limit zero to 100. Whether the mark is to be reckoned as "very good", "good", or "not so good" ("high", "medium" or "kow") depends on how 60 is relative to the other marks made by the class.

When the teacher has finished marking a set of examination papers he has a clear idea of the value of the mark 60. If he puts the papers in the order of merit and counts down to indicate the mark of the middle pupil he is only making explicit what is implicit in his mind before. If he goes further and finds the marks of the pupils who are one quarter of the way from the top and the bottom respectively, he will get a still clearer picture of the value of 60.

This technique was crucial in the fair choice of pupils for academic education.

Douglas McIntosh was born into a family which worked in the Dundee jute industry. His father later became a cinema manager. He attended Harris available for head teachers. He breaking innovations for the of Fife County Council, told me Genrothes, Fife 21 April 1998.

Academy, then a celebrated, disciplined and academic school, to which he was to return for two years (1936-38) as a young maths teacher. Gaining a first class honours degree at St Andrews University, he went on to do a degree in Education at Edinburgh; his PhD thesis was on "Methods of Examination at the Qualifying Stage". It was this early concern with the choice of pupils which appealed to the left-wing, coalminers-dominated Fife County Council, worried that working-class children with brains were not making the most of themselves. They appointed McIntosh Deputy Director at the unheard-of age of 27 and confirmed him as their

director at the age of 33 in 1944. From the first, he displayed an inspirational capacity to persuade teachers to give up time out of hours to help pupils. Setting great store in attracting the highest quality of head teacher available, he provided as a priority the best accommodation

were dated 30 April 1997. The

particulars of claim anticipat-

ed that the defendants might

raise the defence that the claim

(if later) of the person injured.

The "date of knowledge"

was also one of the first in the accelerated promotion of public sector in Britain to address the problem of the verv gifted pupil, whom he held had important rights.

At Kirkcaldy High School, in tandem with Robert Adam, the famous Rector, he created an élite class of high-flyers who from an early age were to be destined for university. He justified this élitist view to me by saying: "It's like a four-minute mile - you must have your Chataways and your Brashers to make it possible for your Rannisters to achieve!" One of the beneficiaries of

this class was Gordon Brown, our present Chancelior of the Exchequer. Brown himself now thinks that McIntosh's view of an élite class was flawed and that the result was that he himself went to university too young. If McIntosh was wrong about his accelerated promotion for pupils, the educational world is much less disenchanted about his ground-

teachers. Alex Eadie, for many years

chairman of the Fife Education Committee, before he became MP for Midlothian and minister responsible for the mining industry in the Wilson-Callaghan government, disagreed with Mc-Intosh on élitism, but thought him a wonderful director of education, who really cared about his efforts to promote the interests of the junior high school pupil. It was McIntosh who introduced the first closed-circuit television into Scottish classrooms and the first language laboratories into British classrooms. It helped greatly when he went round the schools that everybody knew he had played professional football for Dundee and that he had been a member of the side which, memorably, had beaten Glasgow Rangers studded with Gerry

Sir George Sharp, Convenor

Dawson, the goalkeeper, Tory

Gillick and other internationals.



that the greatest of McIntosh's achievements was the establishment of six technical colleges in Fife, along the lines of developments which he had seen in Canada, where year after year he had been a guest lecturer at the University of New Brunswick.

Tam Dalyell

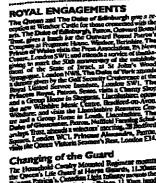
Douglas Moul McIntosh, educationist: born Dundee 27 September 1909; Deputy Director of Education, Fife 1938-44, Director of Education 1944-66: CBE 1961: Principal, Moray House College of Education 1966-73: married 1936 Jean Blair Paterson, die f

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

POLLEN: Anthony (J.A.L.), much-lowed father of Anne and husband of the late Biddy, died peacefully at home on 25 April, aged 97. Requiem Mass at St. Mary's Church, Cadogan Street, London SW3, on Thesday 5 May at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to RUKBA, clo Chelsea F/D, 260b Fulham Road, London SW10 9EL. Telephone 0171-352 0008.

Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be telephoned to 071-293 2011 or faxed to 071-293 2010. Charges are 44.50 a line (VAT extra).



Birthdays

Mr Frank Auerbach, painter, 67; Miss Ann Bell, actress, 58; Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, former gov-ernment minister, 56; Mr Paul Clarke MP, 41; Mr Daniel Day-Lewis, actor, 41; Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, chairman, Independent Com-mittee for Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, 55; Mrs Ruth Deech, Principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, 55; General Sir Peter de la Billière, 64; Miss an sir reter de la biniete, or, miss Anita Dobson, actress, 49; Mr Lon-nie Donegan, skiffle musician, 67; Mr Israel Finestein QC, former presi-dent, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 77; Mr Deryck Guyler, actor and comedian, 84; Sir Parrick Hamill, former Chief Constable, Strathclyde, 68: Miss Celeste Holm, actress, 79; Mr Saddam Hussein at-Takriti, president and prime minister of Iraq. 61; Mile Zizi Jeanmaire, dancer, 74; Pro-fessor David Johns, Vice-Chancellor, University of Bradford, 67; Sir Anthony Laughton, oceanographer, 71: Mr Rod McKuen, composer and poet, 65; Mr Zubin Mehta, conductions of the Arthur Mehta, conductio or, 62; Mr Johnny Miller, golfer, 51 Sir Fraser Noble, former Vice-Chancellor, Aberdeen University, 80: Sir Ronald Norman, chairm: Student Loans Company, 61; Gen-eral Sir Patrick Palmer, Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, 65; Lord Rothschild, financier, 62; Mr Harold Shapero, composer, 78; Mr Jeremy Thorpe, former MP, 69; Mr David Tindle, painter, 66; Mr Alfred Valentine, former West Indies cricketer, 68; Mr Nigel Williams, former ambassador to the United Nations, ambassador to the United Nations, 61: Professor Heinz Wolff, bio-enneer, 70; Sir Peter Youens, forme Nonial administrator, 82.

Anniversaries

Births: John Arbuthnot, physician and author, 1667; William Randolph Hearst, newspaper proprietor, 1863; Sir Thomas Beecham, conductor, sir i nomas peechain, conductor, 1879; Sir Malcolm Sargent, conduc-tor, 1895; Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, jazz composer and band-leader, 1899, Deaths: John Cleve-land, poet, 1658; Wallace Carothers, chemist and developer of nylon, 1937; Sir Alfred Joseph Hitchcock, Illm director, 1980. On this day: the Siege of Orleans was relieved, 1429; at Oxford University a statute was passed, admitting women to exami-nations, 1884; the Dublin Post Office was burnt by Sinn Fein rebels, 1916; the first London performance of the musical show Oklahoma! was staged, 1947. Today is the Feast Day of St Catherine of Siena, St Hugh of Cluny, St Joseph Cottolengo, St Robert of Molesmes and St Wilfrid

Lectures

National Gallery: Alexander Stur-gis, "Penance (v): Saint Jerome", Ipm: Humphrey Wine, "The North Galleries, tales of the unexpected. 6.30pm. Tate Gallery: Michael Rickens.

"Marcel Duchamp: questions, not answers", lon. Wallace Collection, London W1: Robert Wenley, "19th-century Collectors: French collectors", 11.30am

LAW REPORT: 29 APRIL 1998

Solicitor is not an expert when collecting facts

Henderson v Temple Pier Co Ltd; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Beldam and Mrs Justice Bracewell) 23 April 1998

A SOLICITOR was not an expert within the meaning of section 14(3) of the Limitation Act 1980 for the purpose of collecting facts.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the defendant, the Temple Pier Co Ltd. against the dismissal of its application to strike out the claim for damages of the plaintiff, Gennifer Henderson.

The plaintiff's claim arose out of an accident when she had slipped and fallen whilst walking down a metal gangway in order to board a bar and restaurant known as the "No 1 Yacht Club", situated on board the ship St Katherine moored on the Thames.

was statute barred under section 11 of the Limitation Act 1980, which provided that an action in respect of personal injuries had to be brought within three years of the date on which the cause of action had accrued, or the date of knowledge

was defined in section 14(1) of the 1980 Act as the date on which the person first had knowledge of certain facts, including the identity of the defendant. The particulars of claim averred that until July 1994 the plaintiff had been unaware of the correct identity of the defendants as owners and The accident had occurred ocupiers of the ship and gang-

on 28 January 1993, and the way. Although she had inplaintiff's particulars of claim behalf in pursuing the claim for vessel until July 1994 because the ship when making enquiries.

> The defendants applied to the county court for an order that the plaintiff's claim be struck out. The application was dismissed, the county court judge finding that the plaintiff was not fixed with the deficiencies of her solicitors, and had not, therefore, had constructive knowledge of the identity of the defendants. David Balcombe (S. Rutter & Co) for the plaintiff; Gary Burrell QC and Jacob Levy (Shaw and Croft) for the

Mrs Justice Bracewell said that the appeal concerned the

proper construction of the structed solicitors to act on her 1980 Act. Section 14(3) provided that a person should not damages in February 1993, be fixed with knowledge of a they had failed to identify the fact ascertainable only with defendants as owners of the the help of expert advice so long as he had taken all reathey had misspelt the name of sonable steps to obtain that advice. The question was whether a solicitor, advising a plaintiff. was an expert within the mean-

> purpose of collecting facts. There might be circumstances in which a plaintiff might need expert advice to identify a defendant in the sense of identifying the person answerable in law for his injuries. That having been done, the naming of the party would not, save in the most exceptional circumstances, be a fact ascertainable "only with the help of expert advice".

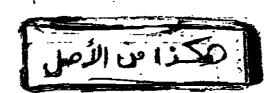
> ing of section 14(3) for the

In the present case, once the name of the ship had been correctly spelt, an enquiry to the Department of Transport had produced details of ownership within a week. It was not, therefore, a fact which could only have been established by expert means,

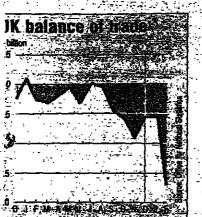
The plaintiff could not take refuge under section 14(1) of the Act, because on the face of it the identity of the defendant was knowledge which she might reasonably have been expected to acquire from facts ob-

tainable or ascertainable by her. Even if the solicitor were to be regarded as an appropriate expert, the facts were ascertainable by him without the use of legal expertise. The proviso to section 14(3) was not intended to give an extended period of limitation to a person whose solicitor had acted dilatorily in acquiring information which was obtainable without

particular expertise, Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



Sterling blamed for worst trade gap in 7 years



THE TOLL on the economy from the strong pound was graphically demonstrated yesterday after publication of the worst monthly trade figures in seven years and a warning from the Confederation of British Industry that export confidence was at its lowest since 1980.

-The UK's global deficit on trade in goods and services in February was £1.7bn, more than three times January's deficit and way above analysts' expectations:

The gloomy mood was reinforced by the

ey showing export optimism at its lowest ebb for 18 years, a sharp drop in overall manufacturing confidence and growing signs of an investment strike by manufacturing industry.

Economists last night warned that UK manufacturing was on the brink of recession. CBI leaders dismissed this, saying industry was facing a "slowdown but necessarily a stop".

However, they also used the latest survey results to reinforce calls for a halt to any further interest rate rises. The CBI also urged Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to be more "activist" in helping keep the lid on sterling.

Ministers said they accepted that the

high level of the pound was hurting but be met without any further rate rises." pointed to British industry's lack of competitiveness. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said Britain was still "far too far behind our major competitors", echoing comments last week by Mr Brown that UK industrial productivity was 40 per

In a speech to businessmen in York last night, Adair Turner, the CBI's director general, accepted that the long-term goal was to improve productivity growth. But he added that short-term interest rates were high enough: "The strong pound is hurting our exporters badly and is beginning to hit their investment plans. The CBI's

judgement is that the inflation target can

cent behind that of the US.

Earlier. Sir Ross Buckland, chairman of Unigate and head of the CBI's economic affairs committee, went further, urging the Bank of England to confirm that rates are now at their peak and that the next movement would be downwards.

Simon Briscoe, economist at Nikko Europe, said the CBI survey was "incredibly weak" while Richard Iley of ABN Amro said UK's manufacturing sector "may already be in recession".

Export optimism is now lower than at any point during the last recession, with a negative balance of 48 per cent of companies pessimistic about prospects for the year ahead. Sterling averaged DM3.07

and \$1.68 during the survey period.

The trade deficit was the largest since the Office for National Statistics (ONS) began recording monthly trade in services back in January 1991.

Excluding oil and erratic items, the UK goods deficit widened by £566m in February to just over £2bn. The oil surplus fell by £220m to £166m, its lowest level since 1993, following the recent decline in oil prices. The surplus on UK services fell by ist over £100m to £461m.

The UK's trade performance deteriorated most rapidly with non-EU countries, a fact that economists called "curious" given that sterling's appreciation "has most-

Dusted research chief damns his former company's 'wonder products'

Millar condemns Biotech's drugs

RITISH Biotech's former ad of clinical research last thi launching a damning critsm of the company's two ain products. Dr Andrew Milr said one was might have to shelved while the other only ood a 40 per cent chance of

Dr Millar, sacked last week. igged the board was running th extreme and unfounded stimism" which would run it of money and "grind to a ilt in about two years."

He said the chance of arimastat, the company's vonder drug", being successful as only 40 per cenf. He saidit suld take a few more years to And he poured cold water on

A should be shut down.".

But British Biotech's chairan, John Raisman, dismissed in Millar's criticism of the ampany saying it was "nonuse that the company could "m out of money." He said: Preservation of each over the ing term is a key criterion of

s for the suggestions that ild only be a 40 per cent nance of Marimastat succeedig, Mr Raisman said: "I'm mazed. Dr Millar has always een a great proponent of

Dr Millar's negative views on



facility in Cowley, Oxford, the drugs

Zacutex were dismissed by Mr message but added: "Anything Raisman. "You have got to he said at that stage could only doubt him on almost every point," he said.

Dr Millar made some of his views known in an open letter. He was dismissed last week for allegedly breaching confidentiality clauses in his contract by talking to shareholders. Dr Millar has been at odds

with senior management for 18 months over what he perview of the company's commercial future. He said yesterday he had

warned main board members. including the non-executives, at a meeting last May that the prospects for Zacutex were not as rosy as many people thought.

He alleged he was reorimanded afterwards by a senior director for being overly negative and that on another occasion he was reprimanded by another executive for "attempting to demoralise senior

Mr Raisman agreed that Dr Millar had given a downbeat

Built on hopes: The in the hope of

be speculative because the tri-

statistically significant." The British Biotech chairman said he was still optimistic about its products. The company is hoping they will be successful. He dismissed Dr Millar's views as "idiosyncratic".

al was at too early a stage to be

Dr Millar admitted last night he felt he had probably ments by talking to shareholders but said he had no option.

He said he had been through line management up to and including John Raisman, the chairman, calling on them to reduce company expenditure because the underlying drug trials did not justify such expansion.

Dr Millar said: "It seemed to me to be a responsible thing to do to talk to the main shareholder [Perpetual] and the company's financial director [Kleinwort Benson] and try to get them to put pressure on management to change corporate direction."

He claimed he had been told by the shareholders they could get management to safeguard the future of the company "but in the end I finished up

being hung out to dry in public".

Dr Millar made his particular views on the main British Biotech drugs public for the first time yesterday. He said: "Marimastat is a very interesting potential drug which must be researched but it could take a few more years or more before we know whether it works in cancer or not. This is totally at odds with the business plans."

With regard to Zacutex, he said: "I fear the early data on lexipafant [Zacutex] misled us. The current data needs to be carefully reviewed and, if incompatible with success, this very expensive project should be shut down."

Shareholders watching the company's share price plummet from £3 to yesterday's level of the views of the non-executive directors on the British Biotech board. They are led by Mr Raisman, the former chairman of Shell, and include David John, chairman of the BOC in-

dustrial group. Mr Raisman defended the role of the non-executives, saying they had acted with "extensive due diligence" and had been involved in extensive discussions about corporate strategy all along.

Dr Millar accepted he was also concerned about the value of his own share options which were exercisable in 1999.



Portrait of a whistleblower

WHISTLEBLOWERS come in all shapes and sizes but no one would pick out Dr Andrew Millar, a highly successful bead of clinical research, as an ob-

vious candidate. Sacked last week by British Biotech, for which he had dedicated his last seven years, 43year old Dr Millar risks losing his income and share options as well as sacrificing a gold-

plated clinical reputation. No future employers likes whistleblowers, yet Dr Millar has pitched himself into hand-

which can call on some serious heavyweights from the business

British Biotech's board includes John Raisman, the former Shell chairman, and David John, BOC chairman, For his part Dr Millar has only a nervous solicitor and a belief that "honesty is an impenetrable ar-

moat". Given the odds, Dr Millar admits its all "pretty frightening", adding: "It really is not what I am about. I think it's something that only comes up once in a lifetime and I hope I

will have to do it again."

agement appeared, Dr Millar had enjoyed considerable success. He had established the clinical research team having been brought in from pharmaceutical group, HMR.

He had worked in Japan and Australia before being European director for HMR. Before this he had worked as a surgeon registrar at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

Dr Millar studied at Oxford, having done his pre-clinical training at Cambridge. He was schooled at Winchester College and comes from a family of Oxfordshire doctors.

and his wife is also a doctor. He lives in the village of Wallingford where his main pre-occupations - outside work - are his three children, tennis and gardening.

So why did put at risk such an enviable lifestyle? "I just found the directors were becoming big-headed and I feared a promising company could fail through their pride."

But he is realistic about the challenge facing him. He says: "It is inconceivable that I will get back there [into British Biotech] unless all the board

Records chief out in EMI power struggle

y Nigel Cope Jry Correspondent

THE power struggle at EMI ook another turn yesterday vhen the music group conirmed that Jean-François Ceallion, chief executive of its JK record labels, had left, with immediate effect.

Mr Cecilion, known in the ndustry as a flamboyant highspender, was brought into the company by Jan Fificid who pay left the group earlier this mouth with a £12m pay-off.

EMI said Mr Cecillon was leaving because his contract had not been renewed. However, it

is understood that the decision was taken by Ken Berry, the head of EMI's music labels worldwide and who was promoted to the main EMI board earlier-this month.

Mir Cecilion's departure is seen as an attempt by EMI to move away from its profligate image associated with Mr Fifield, known as "Lucky Jim" because of his high pay. Mr Cecillon once hired a he-

licopter to take him between two football matches. EMI said he did not charge the fee on his expenses. Though Mr Cecillon achieved success with groups like Elecnal, his more recent record was considered patchy.

City cuts Selfridges' valuation

By Nigel Cope Assistant City Editor

THE value of Selfridges, the Oxford Street department store which will be de-merged from Sears in the summer, was dramatically reduced yesterday after it reported a sharp fall in full year profits and weak sales affected by lower tourist spending, the disruption of refurbishment and a slow Christmas

City analysts cut their valuation to as little as £275m against previous price tags of more than £500m, despite a property re-valuation which has added more than £100m to its balance sheet and the prospect of a new Selfridges in

Manchester. Sir Bob Reid, the Sears chairman, said he had received offers for the Selfridges business but turned them down. "We intend to float it," he said. He said none of the offers were from Harrods owner Mohammed Al Fayed.

One analyst said: "People were valuing Selfridges at £500m, but we think £275m would be more realistic. This is a very uncertain sector and this is another exercise of management mis-judgement. They are a day late and a dollar short."

The analyst said the decision to press ahead with the demerger was surprising given Selfridges lower sales, falling profits and new systems that do

not go live until January. Nick Bubb of SG Securities said: Management sounded relaxed but given the company's record the chances of something going wrong are quite high."

Sears plans to de-merge Selfridges by July and its Freemans mail order group later this year. Analysis had been hoping for a capital return of around £200m to shareholders. However, some said the figure could now be as low as £80m. Sir Bob Reid, Sears chair-

man, admitted that 1997 had been a "challenging year", in which it had re-structured the business and sold its troublesome British Shoe subsidiary. "We have got rid of the losers,"

Sears announced losses of £115m caused by exceptional charges of £174m. Almost £150m of these were related to the sale of British Shoe.

Profits in the three remaining businesses all fell. Freemans was hit by the strong pound. The clothing business, which will be Sears' sole business after the two de-mergers, saw profits fall after losses at Miss Selfridge caused by higher markdowns. Richards is only breaking even, while Wallis and Warehouse performed well. Profits dipped slightly at Adams childrenswear.

Investment Column,

Election battle at Baltic Exchange

By Terry Macalister

A MUTINY has broken out at the Baltic Exchange, one of the City's oldest institutions, with dissident shareholders campaigning for election to the ruling board on a "reform" ticket. The current Baltic board is

accused of wasting hundreds of thousands of pounds commissioning reports and "failing to move with the times". These criticisms have been put by Peter Kerr-Dineen, joint chairman of respected shipbroking firm Howe Robinson, in an open letter to Baltic shareholders.

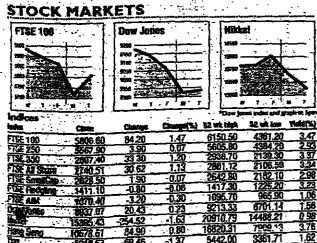
Mr Kerr-Dineen, one of two

himself forward for a secret ballot of all members on 8 July. In his letter, he criticises of the way the board dealt with a Deloitte & Touche report it had commissioned on how to extricate itself from financial problems.

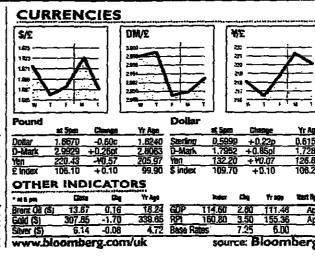
The letter says: "Regardless of a cost of £300,000, the board had no hesitation rejecting the report and instead floated a poorly constructed alternative set of proposals that it subsequently withdrew."

Jim Buckley, Baltic secretary, said the reportwas shelved after a majority of members made it clear they did not agree with its findings.

esterday in the markets



NTEREST RATES MAIN PRICE CHANGES Price (s) Che (s) % Ches





Matta (liva)	0.6319
Mexican (nuevo peso)	12,88
Metherlands (guilders)	3.2623
New Zealand (\$)	2.9171
Norway (krone)	12.17
Portugal (escudos)	295.61
Saudi Arabia (nals)	6.0949
Singapore (S)	2.5370
Spain (pesetas)	245.19
South Africa (rands)	8.1106
Sweden (krone)	12 61
Switzerland (francs)	2.4264
Thailand (bahls)	59.42
Turkey (Hrasi)	397657
USA (S)	1.6341
Rates for indication	purposes only
	mas Cook

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Troubles not over at Sears

THAT Sears' shares should rise yesterday after a truly awful set of results shows how desperate the market has become about this company. The rise was down to the fact that the current trading figures were not even worse but prospects at the current share price, up 4,25p to 59,75p, do-

not look exciting. Yesterday's £115m loss amounts to the group's second "kitchen sinking" of its accounts in three years. This year's deficit was attributable to £174m of exceptionals. chiefly the £150m cost of selfing its loss-making British Shoe Corporation.
If selling BSC had re-

moved the last problems from Sears portfolio the relief would seem justified. Sadly this is not the case. The group is pressing on with demerging both its Sellridges department store operation and its Freemans mail order business even though market conditions and the performances of both businesses are not auspicious.

Selfridges saw profits fall by 36 per cent to £22.7m, partly due to less space in the Oxford Street store as refurbishment continues but also due to lower tourist spending and higher mark-downs

At Freemans, profits were also down with the strong pound hitting overseas sales. In clothing, the division Sears will be left with after the demerger, results were affected by losses at Miss Selfridge and a poor performance from Richards.

Analysis are attaching break-up values of 65p-75p to Sears with SG Securities going for £350m (23p) for Selfridges. £250m (16p) for Freemans, £200m (13p) for clothing and a £200m capital return in the form of a 13p special dividend.

Net assets are 66.6p following a £122m upgrade in the valuation of the property ports folio. This underpins the share depends on the team's perprice but Sears has several problems looking torward, to the omens are good, Man-The retail climate is difficult. Freemans will face tougher competition from the GUS- Fifth in the league at the Argos link-up, and the clothing business has historically proved unable to hang on to its margins when the going rest of the Premier League.

gets difficult. confident that the worst was is better than average and over yesterday but investors should be wary given this company's capacity to disappoint. Worth holding until the demorgers and for next to Leeds United's ground possible takeover action but current levels.

Football value at Leeds

DISILLUSIONED tans could after. be forgiven for turning their back on football shares, which

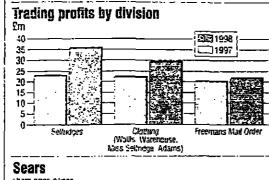
Sears: At a glance

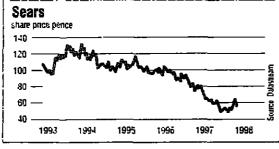
Market value: £911m, share pnce 59.75 (+4 25p)

Five-year record 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 2.01 2.14 2.33 1.95 1.62 Turnover (£bn)

Pre-tax profits (£m) 138.30 153.80(119.70) 68.10 (115.70) Earnings per share (p) 6.80 7.50 (7.10) 3.30 (7.30)

Dividends per share (p) 3.68 3.95 3.95 3.95 3.95





this season. But the slump in the value of the sector means there could be value to be had for investors bold enough to remain in their seats for the

Leeds Sporting, formerly known as Cuspian and owner of Leeds United football club. whose own shares have slumped from more than 46p to 19p, could eventually turn out to be one of the winners.

While it is not in the financial league of the footballing clite such as Manchester United, it is doing better than most. Football revenues rose 16 per cent to £13.5m in the six months to December, thanks to better attendances and rising income from executive boxes and catering.

Of course much of this and future financial success, as always with football clubs. formance on the pitch. Here ager George Graham has started a revival at the club. moment, Leeds should qualify for Europe next year.

Players' wages, as in the are a major concern but the Graham has cleared out a lot of dead wood from the squad.

A new £40m development of an indoor arena and hotel also promises to create value this stage how much is anybody's guess.

Peel Hunt forecasts pretransfer profits of around. At 30 times forecast earnings £2.25m in the 12 months to June, rising to £4m the year

However perhaps a better way to view Leeds is as a relhave shown relegation formall atively under-exploited foot- a good long-term investment.

ball franchise with genuine potential and a strong fan base.

Fibernet hopes high

INVESTORS have dialled into Fibernet, which specialises in providing local fibreoptic telephone cables, over the last few months.

Listed on the Alternative Investment Market at 100p in June 1996, the shares were languishing at 84p last Christmas, but have soared to a peak of 341p last week, valuing the company at £133m. in anticipation of a profit bonanza. When or indeed if it

arrives, however, is a difficult one to call.

Fibernet reported a loss of £2m compared to a profit of £132,000 last year. That included an increased loss of £2.5m on TANet, its high-speed fibre-optic communications network used to link local telephone systems and on which the company's hopes are pinned. Turnover in the established

local area network services rose by almost 30 per cent to £4.4m. but operating profits rose by just 9 per cent to £582,000, reflecting margin pressures caused by Management appeared underlying rise of 18 per cent the need to constantly upgrade technology.

These margin worries and delays in translating orders for TANet into income combined to send the shares down 40n to 301p yesterday. Analysis are now looking for a flat second not one to chase much above for shareholders, although at half and a loss of £2m for the full year.

Analysts have pencilled in a profit of fom for next year. the shares are far from cheap given the risks involved and the threat of competition from the likes of BT in future years. However Fibernet still looks

Shareholders attack SB board

By Andrew Verity

THE BOARD of SmithKline Beecham yesterday faced the first public attacks from shareholders for its role in wiping £13bn off the value of the company after merger talks with Glaxo Wellcome were broken off.

Shareholders attacked the board for exonerating themselves from blame for the merger flop, bitterly criticising executives for allowing the company to be exposed to a "drubbing" from the City and the press. One shareholder said: "The

chief executive says that he is disappointed. Well he darn well out to be disappointed. You're blaming them and no doubt they will blame you. But despite all you have said, something like £13bn was reported lost when this merger failed. I think that is a disgrace." Sir Peter Walters, chairman

of SB. said: "You have lost money but you have lost money on a merger that could not have delivered the benefits of that first few days' share price enhancement.

last week by Sir Richard Sykes, amounts to more than £60m. chief executive of Glazo Well- One shareholder ask: "I'm sure pendent company.

ANOTHER part of Britain's

appeared yesterday when Scot-

tish & Newcastle (S&N)

announced the closure of head-

quarters in Northampton, the

West Midlands and Chorley

It is the latest in a series of

who have sacked thousands of

workers over the past few years

in an effort to cope with a shift

in power in the drinks industry

following the emergence of huge

independent pub chains. The

with the loss of 300 jobs.

historic brewing industry dis-

By Andrew Yates



jan Leschly, on £60m. 'Could he take less,' a shareholder asked

market power to squeeze bigger The base of Matthew Brown, the

come, that Glaxo had wanted a Jan is so wonderful but could he merger of equals. He said Sir Richard Sykes on 30 January had said he wanted both himself and Jan Leschly, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, to report to the board.

"Sir Richard Sykes, however, on 20 February, then proposed removing Jan before the deal had even been completed and having other members of the management team report directly to him.

Mr Leschly also faced sharp criticism over a pay and com-Mr Walters hit back at claims pensation package which

Scottish & Newcastle to

discounts out of brewers, forcing

structure its business following

the recent loss of an exclusive

contract to supply The Grand

Pub Company, Analysts expect

the loss of beer revenues from

what is its biggest customer

will cost S&N £25m a year and

The headquarters of William

Younger, the trading company

named after the founding father

of the group who first opened a

brewery in Edinburgh almost 150

S&N has been forced to re-

close down three sites

them to cut costs.

flat this year.

please take a little less money?" Mr Walters said the package was needed to retain Mr Leschly

in the context of the worldwide pay for heading a pharmaceutical company. His pay ranked eighth in the world for pharmaceutical companies while Sir Richard was the 12th best paid.

outside the normal range for British companies. We pay well and it is a lot. But so far the company has delivered a lot."

"These are salaries that are

Mr Leschly ruled out a merger with Zeneca and said SB had a bright future as an inde-

brewer that S&N acquired after

a bitter takeover battle in 1987,

is also going to be abandoned.

its whole brewing network by

streamlining six of its sales businesses into four regional

companies under its main

brands including Courage, John

Smith's, Newcastle Breweries

any of beer brands as part of the

restructuring. But analysts believe

that the group is likely to out costs

further over the next few years,

which could involve rooting out

smaller, less successful beers.

S&N is not planning to axe

and Scottish Brewers.

S&N is planning to shake up

Risk-taking yields big rewards for the rich

THE RICH are getting richer and are taking greater risks with their investments, according to a report out yesterday. The 1998 Merrill Lynch/Gemini-World Wealth Report reckaned the wealth of the world's richest people grew by 5 per cent tast year to \$17.4 trillion (£10.4 trillion). The report also found that low. er risk investments, such as bank deposits and hones, were falling out of favour with richer investors, who were turning to the traditionally more risky equity markets.

Weather cost as forecast

INSURANCE giants General Accident and Guardian Royal Ex-change revealed the extent of the impact of the severe weather during January and Easter in the UK and the ice storms in Canada. GRE said its liabilities were around £37m while GA said claims had risen £30m year-on-year in the first three months of 1998. Analysts said weather losses in the first part of the year werein line with market expectations.

Allianz goes fast

A DM1.3bn (£435m) batch of new shares in insurer Allianz was snapped up by global institutional investors in 30 minutes. The issue, at DM546 a share, marked the second phase of a capital increase to help fund Allianz's planned takeover of France's AGF. which will restore it to the number one spot in Europe.

Engine order for Rolls

ROLLS-ROYCE said International Aero Engines is to supply V2500 engines to three Latin American airlines in the biggest single order in the consortium's history. Rolls-Royce is a major shareholder in IAE. The contract, worth up to \$2.3bn (1.37bn), has a potential value to Rolls of \$770m, it said, Grupo Taca, Lan-Chile and TAM Brazil have selected the V2500 to power 88 firm and 87 option Airbus Industrie A319 and A320 aircraft. The exgines will be assembled at Rolls-Royce's factory in Derby.

United Biscuits expands

UNITED BISCUITS is in talks with Campbell Soup Company to buy its Biscuits Delacre business for an undisclosed sum. Delacre is Campbell's continental European biscuit business, with operations in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. UB said it expected the acquisition to be earnings enhancing in its first year. In the year to July 1997, Delacre had sales of \$180m. UB said, adding that a proposed return of £150m to shareholders this July would be unaffected.

Telekom's Asia charge

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM said it had taken a DM300m (£100m) charge against its assets in Asia as a result of the region's finan-cial and economic crisis: Joachim Kroeske, chief financial officer, told a news conference that, including business losses in the region, Telekom's results had been depressed by DM900m last year.

Salvage shares tumble ϵ

SHARES in Universal Salvage lost a fifth of their value after the independent contract motor salvage group warned full year profits would be below current market estimates. The shares closed down 12.5p at 50p. The group expects pre-tax profits of around £1.6m. It warned at the interim stage the group would not meet the estimates for the year to April in the market at that time about £4m - and brokers downgraded it to about £2.5m.

Coopers to hire 1,000

COOPERS & LYBRAND, the Big Six accountancy firm that is in the process of merging with Price Waterhouse, is seeking to hire 1,000 people around the world as part of a massive recruitment drive aimed at keeping pace with a projected growth rate

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Alexandra Workwaar (F)	66 Dm (65 9m)	5 6m (1.1m)	10 7p (2.2p)	7.0p (6.5p)
Carr's Milling Inds (1)	43.86m (42.97m)	0.853m (1.704m)	5.5p (14.5p)	3 Op (3.0p)
David Brown (F)	191.9m (181.8m)	15 Om (17.2m)	17.0p (17.7p)	9.2p (8.4p)
Fibernel Group (I)	4 70m (3,42m)	-1.984m (0.132m)	-5.3p (0.4p)	ml (nll)
McCarthy & Stene (I)	41.0m (32.1m)	9 1m (4 5m)	5.2p (3.2p)	1.0p (0.66p)
MY Heidlegs (1)	47 11m (44.96m)	6.508m (6 502m)	3.44p (3.36p)	0.8p (0.8p)
Sears (F)	1.62bn (1 95bn)	-115 7m (68.1m)	4.1p (4.3p)	3.98p (3.98p)
\$ & U (F)	60 46m (60.52m)	7 02m (7 13m)	42.30p (39.31p	19 Op (18 Op
United Anctions (F)	9 02m (10 16m)	0.150m (Z.09m)	24 9p (88.4p)	9.25p (9.0p)
Utility Cable (I)	33.49m (55.14m)	-3 D1m (1 78m)	-2 06p (0 82p)	ral (0 27p)
(F) - Final (I) - Interim 1 EPS is pre-exceptionals "Dividend to be paid as a FID				

cutbacks from major brewers mean its brewing profits will be

new pub giants have used their years ago, is being shut down.

Hi-Tech surges on bid hopes By Nigel Cope

City Correspondent SHARES in Hi-Tech Sports, the was considering a deal with a are getting bigger," he exa bid for the company. The increase values Hi-Tec at £26m.

"Interested parties are most likely to be American corporations and the possible associations being considered by the board may or may not result in an offer being made for van Wezel controls 52 per cent

Hi-Tec," the company said. Hi-Tec's chief executive Paul Harrison admitted that, due to the group's size, it was most likely that a link-up would take the sports shoe manufacturer, form of a takeover. "There is surged by more than a third to quite a lot of consolidation in 51.5p yesterday after it said it our industry and the big firms

larger partner that could lead to plained. "It's a matter of scale, we are a very small company and now is a good moment [to look for a deal] after two or three years' of improvement."

Any bid for HiTec would have to be an agreed deal as founder and chairman Frank

as Nike or Timberland. The market for training shoes has been under pressure from the rapid growth in "brown shoes" such as Timberland, Rockport and Cateroillar. The group has been going

of the shares. Likely bidders

could include a US giant such

through a period of recovery after it ran into problems after diversifying into low margin clothing as competitors' cut prices. For the year to end April

1998, house broker Greig Middleton is forecasting profits of 4m on sales of £93m.

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PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



VICKERS, the British engineering company which is in talks to sell Rolls Royce motors to the Germans, has peached a Belgian from BTR to be its new chief executive. The only snag is, no-one at

Vickers seems to know how Paul Buysse pronounces his Mr Buysse, 53, is executive

with a combined turnover of £1.9bn. A spokeswoman for Vickers says she thinks his name is pronounced "Boy-eesah", although the subject remains open to debate. The spokeswoman adds

that Mr Buysse will not be using the title conferred on him by the King of the Belgians, King Baudouin, that of "Chevalier Paul Buysse," that country's equivalent of a "Chevalier knighthood. Buysse" would be a bit of a mouthful, I suppose.

He succeeds Sir Colin Chandler, who continues as chairman of Vickers. Sir Colin himself succeeded Sir Richard Lloyd as chairman. and 12 months ago agreed to stand in as chief executive for a year whilst a new chief executive officer was found.

Vickers is keen to use Mr Buysse's experience and international contacts. He helped design and implement BTR's strategy of changing itself from a diversified conglomerate to a focused engineering group. Vickers is undergoing a similar process,

The Vickers spokeswoman had no comment to make on that score, but did say that talks with BMW over Rolls Royce are "fairly intense at the moment". BMW's exclusive right to sales talks is about to run out. leaving Volkswagen with a ray of hope.

TO CONTINUE the internationalist theme, the deputy chairman of Liffe who was born in Canada of Dutch parents and educated in Columbia. Denmark and England, is leaving UBS to take over as group chief executive of Credit Lyonnais Rouse (CLR), the French-owned derivatives

Phew. Clara Forse, 40, is global head of futures and options at UBS and has been a board member at Liffe since 1990. She is not hanging around to see how the "merger" with SBC will go, however. Her new employers have "a very international business they're very strong in commodities and in Asia," she says. Her new job will also give her wider responsibilities, she

with their ghastly yellow blazers and follow the continentals with their screen-based derivatives trading? "The exchange (Liffe) has

always been a hybrid ex-change. says Ms Furse. "The board recognised a year ago that we would have to invest in a new (screen based) system." She sees the old and new systems running side by side in London, and is dismissive of the threat from across the channel. Will London win? "T don't think there's any doubt at all," she says.

IT HAD to happen, I suppose. I refer to the "rebranding" of Caledonia Investments, the annoyingly successful vehicle run by the Cayzer family. The Cayzers, old Tories and old money, have finally decided to break with tradition and promote a quartet of non-family plebs to the board. The new appointments will

however, only be "associate" directors. The lucky oiks are Graeme Denison, who became Caledonia's finance director in 1992. Tony Carter,

Not that the current, family-dominated board is amateurish, I hasten to add. Paul Buckley, Caledonia's chairman, and Sir David Kinloch, deputy chief executive, are both chartered accountants. for instance.

The Cayzer family did spectacularly well by selling its family business British & Commonwealth to John Gunn in the 1980s, just before the business fell apart. Caledonia promptly bought what hits it wanted back afterwards. I hope such aristocratic brio will not be lost in the new, proletarian Caledonia.

IVE heard of glass ceilings but this is stretching it a bit. The Society of Dyers &

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** (EF)

Colourists has just appointed its first ever woman president in its 114 years existence. Dr Veronica Bell, founder and owner of a textile printing and dyeing company in Harrogate, has got the top job for the first time since the society was founded in Bradford in 1884. Dr Bell's company Vee-

bee Tech is a dyeing and printwith the car business about to group taxation manager who ing business which specialises be off-loaded, and the possi-But what of the increasing joined nine years ago, Paul in the top end of the market. director responsible for a clutch bility of the Challenger tank competition from Frankfurt Whiteley, finance manager She has chosen as her theme of businesses at BTR including husiness being merged with and Paris for Liffe's husiness? who joined in 1989 and John for the year: "The SDC ... A Should the London market power drives, environmental GKN's Warrior armoured car Mehrtens, administration force for the future." And not technology and the rail division, operation. ditch the open outcry traders manager who enlisted in 1991, a moment too soon.

French Biscuits en



DIDN'T THINK OF

OUTLOOK Many Boes last ON SIR MICHAEL BISHOP WHY THE POUND MIGHT WOBBLE AND ngm. ...der log INGENUITY THE **GOVERNMENT**

The airlines chief and the incredible prize

EUROPE'S airlines have discovered that airline, the flagship carrier British Midland. it is much more fun to float than to sit around on the tarmac. The rush of carriers coming to the market is in danger of turning into one of those stampedes that follows a free flights offer.

The latest carrier to make its next destination a Stock Exchange listing is the British Regional Airlines Group. Don't worry if you've never heard of it. The business was better known as Manx Airlines and Loganair until they became a British Airways franchise two years ago, and the pilot is Sir Michael Bishop, who counts his fortune in Heathrow landing slots rather than gold bars.

There has rarely been a better time for airlines to go public, and the roll-call gets longer by the day ... Ryanair, Virgin Express, Debonair, AB Airlines. The big difference with British Regional Airlines is that it is not a cut-price carrier. In fact it goes out of its way to fly what are known in the trade as "thin routes" - ones with too few passengers to attract anything as unseemly as a fares war.

British Regional Airlines is only the second UK scheduled airline to come to market, the other being BA. Unlike BA, however, it will be on a blistering historic multiple of more than 30 if it reaches its reserve price of £80m-£100m. That might seem extraordinary for a business with net assets of just £1.3m (it leases virtually all its fleet) operating in a sector as notoriously cyclical as aviation. But that's the bull mar-

Sir Michael will make about £25m from the float, much of which will be used to repay inter-company debts owed to his other Sir Michael owns 60 per cent of BM, the Scandinavians at SAS own the rest. He is not said to be in any hurry to go the same route and float his prize asset. But with no heir to pass British Midland on to, and no stated intention of joining SAS in the Star Alliance, the temptation roust be there. Since it is four times as profitable as British Regional Airlines and owns 13 per cent of all slots at Heathrow, the windfall would be truly astronomic. Watch this space.

Flaws in Brown's **Emu policy**

THE Treasury Select Committee's report into preparations for monetary union highlights some key flaws in the Chancellor's Emu policy. Just to recap, Gordon Brown has declared himself in favour of the single currency in principle, but has ruled out joining in the first wave or the lifetime of this parliament. Furthermore, he has set five, rather woolly, preconditions.

For a start, the committee finds, the five tests are too ill defined, particularly on the key criteria of achieving a sufficient degree of convergence, to be adequately assessed Nor is it clear how the Chancellor does plan to assess these tests. Without this knowledge there is bound to be uncertainty in the financial markets. Worse, the five tests seem to take no account of an admittedly negative but possibly rather more weighty consideration - the economic costs of not joining. This is similar to the argument that

whether or not Emu is a good thing, since it is happening anyway it may be against our interests to stay out.

However, these difficulties pale into insignificance set aside the main problem. As the committee points out, it will not be possible to judge "clearly and unambiguously" either the "success" of Emu (the Chancellor's own words) or whether it has met the five tests for at least five years after the single currency's launch. This takes us to 2004. or approximately halfway through the next parliament. The committee doesn't explicitly make this point, but obviously it's the case that if Emu is by this stage an undeniable success, the European Central Bank will extract penalty points for our late entry. Everyone wants a risk-free bet, but in the real world it doesn't work that way.

The committee raises other important imponderables. One is the possibility, discussed before in this column, that the single currency might become quite widely used in Britain before any decision is taken to enter. Already many businesses have indicated their intention of conducting much of their trade in euros, whether Britain joins or not. If they were to extend this policy down to their cost base, by for instance paying their workforce in euros, then a large part of the economy would de facto become the province of the European Central Bank regardless of what the politicians want.

Finally there is the question of entering the single currency at "an appropriate" exchange rate. Given that the Government has surrendered control of monetary policy to an independent Bank of England, and that

an exchange rate target forms no part of its formal thinking on interest rates, this creates clear difficulties in achieving exchange rate stability, or an "appropriate rate". Indeed, it is quite likely that if the euro swiftly establishes reserve currency status, the pound, caught between the dollar and the euro, would become highly volatile.

Two observations can be drawn from all this. The first is that in truth the new goverament's policy doesn't add up to much of an advance on John Major's position; though it might look a little more positive, it is still largely a political fudge. The second is that a huge amount of work is left to be done on whether it is in Britain's economic interests to join, and on how to join in an orderly and advantageous manner.

A simple trick they didn't spot

THE National Audit Office has already lambasted the last Government and its advisers over the relatively poor price they achieved for the three former British Rail train leasing companies, so it may seem a bit unfair to continue jumping up and down on their graves. However, just how much of an undervalue these businesses were sold at is only just becoming apparent.

All three of these companies, along with a number of other assets (such as the Ministry of Defence's stock of housing) which rely heavily or solely on the Government for their income, were sold as conventional privatisations - that is as ordinary companies making ordinary profits and paying ordinary dividends. What the Government's advisers (Hambros in the case of the three leasing companies) failed to realise was that hecause these businesses are backed by guaranteed government income, they could be "securitised", or refinanced through the issue of bonds with a credit rating not too far away from that of a conventional gilt edged stock. Thus the value of the companies became multiplied manifold in the hands of the City's financial alchemists, and those such as Nomura who realised the potential deaned up.

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Everyone has since piled aboard the bandwagon. Securitisation is now applied to such diverse interests as pop star royalties (following the Bowie bond, we are about to get a Rod Stewart bond), films, mortgage books, student loans and credit card receivables - anything with a reliable income stream. Stagecoach this week launched a £368m bond to finance an order for 113 new

Outside the City it is fashionable to regard the apparent financial engineering of these transactions as at least questionable and possibly quite dangerous, for it looks like a return to 1980s-style debt financing. However, there is another way of looking at it. Since the risk of the assets, should they fail, is transferred to the bonds too, securitisation merely becomes an ingenious, offbalance sheet way of raising finance. Risk is transferred from the company and its business to the bondholders, who are unable to call on the companies' other assets in the event of a default. Simple, yet ingenious. Too bad the government didn't spot it.

American giant buys UK internet bookseller

By Nigel Cope

AMAZON.COM, the world's largest internet bookseller, fired wars yesterday when it announced plans to accelerate its expansion into Europe with three acquisitions including Bookpages.co.uk, the British internet book retailer. The move is likely to increase the pressure on the UK book market, which is already being targeted by American high street retailers. Amazon, based in Seattle, is paying \$55m (£33m) for the three businesses, which also include Telebook, Germany's largest internet book group and Internet Move Database, a television and film database company. This could signal a move

by Amazon into selling movies. The deals are Amazon's first acquisitions outside the US and underline its ambitious to hecome a major player in European book markets. "The Bookpages acquisition will enable Amazon to quickly offer UK and European consumers the same combination of selection, service and value that we now provide in the US," said leffrey Bezos, Amazon's founder and chief executive.

Amazon's orders from the UK are currently serviced from its warehouse in Delaware. Following the Bookpages deal, orders will be processed from a UK warehouse, provided the book is in stock. Amazon says

this will reduce delivery times and improve service.

Bookpages was set up 18 months ago by Simon Murdoch and five colleagues. It provides in print to customers around the world. Mr Murdoch will now be managing director of Amazon in the UK, though it will trade on the internet under its existing website address, www.bookpages.co.uk

"We will be very aggressive about pricing in the future," Mr Murdoch said. Amazon.com has been one

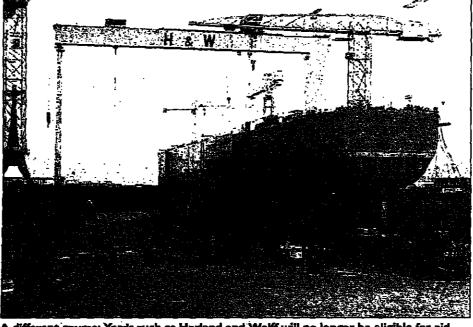
of the most successful internet retailers. Styling itself as "earth's largest bookstore" it offers more than 3 million books and CDs to customers in 160 countries. Quoted on Nasdaq, the company is now valued at \$2bn.

It recorded losses of \$9.25m on sales of \$87m in the first quarter of this year, up 32 per cent on the previous quarter. In the last full year it lost \$27.6m on sales of £148m.

Amazon raised \$275m on the debt markets last Friday to fund working capital and renew credit facilities. UK booksellers are under

pressure as the high street market consolidates and US retailers move in Borders, an American group took over Books etc last year.

Barnes & Noble, another US book superstore operator is also keen on entering the UK



A different course: Yards such as Harland and Wolff will no longer be eligible for aid

EU ministers poised to scrap state subsidies for shipbuilders

Asian economies.

By Michael Harrison

STATE subsidies for Europe's shipbuilders are set to scrapped next week, ending 30 years of taxpavers' support for the industry in the face of cutprice competition from Far East yards.

European Union industry ministers are expected to vote to phase out the aid regime, introduced in 1969, when they meet in Brussels a week to-

Over the last three decades hundreds of millions of pounds have been pumped into European shipbuilders to help them compete with

yards in Japan and Taiwan. The decision to end subsidies comes amid indications about to start a fresh round of price-cutting following the downturn which has hit the

Margaret Beckett. President of the Board of Trade, who will chair next week's meeting, said the main effect of the aid regime had been to distort competition between EU shipbuilders and that a Europeanwide end to subsidies should

have little impact on their competitiveness. The plan to end state supTreaty on subsidies. However, the treaty is yet to be signed by the US, Japan or Korea. The current directive on shipbuilding aid limits subsidies

to 9 per cent of a ship's cost. It was originally set at 28 per cent. The subsidy is supposed to bridge the gap between world prices and the most competitive

In the last five years 11 British yards, including Kvaeruer Govan on the Clyde, VSEL and Vosper have received a total of £46m.

All EU member states, with the exception of France, are thought to be in favour of ending subsidies.

British Regional Airlines to float

By Michael Harrison

THE FUTURE of British Midland, the country's second biggest scheduled airline, came under the spotlight yesterday after Sir Michael Bishop, its founder and controlling shareholder, unveiled plans to float his British Regional Airlines group.

The floration, due in June, is expected to value the business at £80m-£100m and is bound to beighten speculation that British Midland is also heading ultimately for a stock market listing. Sir Michael is expected to

raise £20m-£25m from the float. He owns 51 per cent of a holding company which controls 90 per cent of British Regional Airlines. This holding will be reduced to just under 30 per cent. The float will raise £25m of new money to expand its fleet of 46 aircraft by leas-

ing Embraer 45 aircraft. British Regional Airlines flies 86 routes in the UK and Europe under a franchise deal with British Airways and its Manx Airlines subsidiary. The routes operated under the BA name are the former Loganair network.

Last year the group doubled profits to £3.8m on turnover up by 21 per cent to £165m. It is one of the biggest airlines operating in Scotland with bases in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness.

British Regional Airlines was spun off from Sir Michael's Airlines of Britain group last year after which he bought out the 40 per cent stake in the business held by SAS, the Scandinavian airline. SAS continues to hold a 40 per cent stake in British Midland.

Sir Michael said the flotation was the final stage of the separation of British Regional Airlines and had no bearing on what he might ultimately do with his flagship airline, British Midland

Terry Liddiard, the chief executive, said the airline was not in direct competition with lowcost carriers such as Ryanair, easylet, Debonair and Go. which concentrate on routes with high passenger numbers. Ontlook, this page

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Fears over euro money laundering

By Diane Coyle Economics School

THE NEW European Central Bank must limit the printing of high-denomination euro banknotes to prevent the single currency proving a bonanza for money launderers and other criminals, ministers meeting in Paris at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said

yesterday. But the meeting failed to resolve a row between member countries over the future of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment, the controversial proposals for a new treaty on investment by multinationals. While some delegations, notably the French, claimed the talks had been suspended, nomination notes because

others insisted that negotiations would continue in time for a treaty to be adopted at next year's OECD meeting.

Philippe Maystadt, Belgium's finance minister, speaking on behalf of the Financial Action Task Force, made it clear that ministers would expect the European Central Bank to limit the number of 200 and 500 Euro notes in circulation once they are introduced in 2002.

The ECB might decide to print rather a low number of these notes," he said. US government prints nothing higher than \$100 bills in order to make life harder for criminals, less than a fitth of the value of the Euro 500 note. The new currency will include the higher deGermany has always issued some had demanded a six-month high-value Deutschmark notes. A new report on progress by

the Financial Action Task Force also called for bureaux de change to be subject to the same anti-laundering rules as all other financial institutions. It described bureaux de change as key links in the money laundering chain and urged their operators to form professional associations that could co-operate with international regulators.

The report set out a fiveyear plan to combat international financial crime, calling this a serious threat to democracy and financial soundness.

The MAI remained the most controversial subject at this year's OECD meeting. turning the final communique into a fiasco. French ministers suspension of the talks, and claimed victory when the final statement noted that the negotiators would not meet again until October. However, Donald Johnston, the OECD's secretary general, and other ministers, insisted negotiations were continuing. Mr Johnston said: "There is

no suspension ... I am sure that the rather small, parochial issues that are on the table will be worked out." Jacques Dondoux, France's

minister for overseas trade, said a delay was needed to take account of political objections to the proposed treaty. He said the negotiations had been too ambitious, and had not taken account of social, environmental and cultural objections.

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Footsie recovers quickly from Monday's panic

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

SHARES recaptured more than half of Monday's panicky fall, with Footsie rallying 84.2 points to 5,806.6.

US interest rates eased, the months. We stick to our yearstock market remained frag- end Footsie target of 6,000," ile with the conviction grow- they say. ing that equities could be in

for an unexciting summer. Gavin Oldham, chief executive of stockbroker The Share Centre, pointed out that this year's splendid run was not particularly unusual. period shares had made the insurance and pension headway in 23 of the past 24

He added: "This is usually movement just 2 per cent mutual's members. from May to September. The After all, markets both here have been established and last and in America have been summer there was a whiff of down and now have two: paid 601p apiece for 33.4 mil-Japan and interest rates."

Although fears of higher market is in for a difficult few able to Widows.

911p. was the name in the frame. Stories swirled of a mutual.

Presumably it would involve Royal Bank buying Chartered, 23p to 893p. followed by a rather sub- Widows, which would mean

McBain at BT Alex Brown cent. There was dismay in from hold to buy. (NatWest Securities as was) some quarters that the new are also cautious: "The equity shares were only made avail- fine art auctioneer, firmed 11p

As is so often the case, a per cent of RBS Advanta action could re-emerge. strong Footsie advance was from Fleet Financial of Joseph Lewis, the Bahamasaccompanied by rumours of Boston. The company is one based tycoon, has approaching corporate action - Royal of the fastest growing credit 30 per cent of Christies and is Bank of Scotland, up 46p to card businesses in this

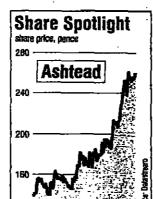
Norwich Union bounced In the December to April deal with Scottish Widows, 22.5p to 442.5p and other financials in recovery mode included Bank of Scotland, up 25p to 710p, and Standard Scottish & Newcastle's

dued period with the average a windfall bonanza for the streamlining was worth 41p to 877p and figures lifted Sears The two seem a natural fit 4.25p to 59.75p. Hardlikelihood is that we will see and rumours of a deal have pressed Next drew a little a similar pattern this year. often circulated Trading links comfort from Sears, gaining 24p to 500p.

Debenhams remained the looking for an excuse to go controversy when Widows retail flavour of the week, up 12p to 386p following its relion new Royal Bank shares. sults-inspired 26.5p gain on

Bob Semple and David lifting its stake to 4.69 per Monday SBC Warburg moved keen, it would appear, to Goldberg is on the verge of

Christies International, the to 273.5p. Bid talks collapsed Royal Bank did offer just in February. This month the a touch of corporate action. shares have edged ahead, re- to Henderson Crosthwaite thened 6p to 261.5p after re-It acquired the outstanding 49 viving hopes that corporate support, falling 6.5p to 557p.



realise his investment.

Glaxo Wellcome jumped 60p to 1,607p on Goldman take over of relegated Crystal Sachs backing but Reed International failed to respond Bass, up 25p to 1,112p and Whitbread, 15p to 1,045p. were encouraged by upgradings by Warburg; Allied which saw its takeover ap-Domecq, ahead of figures proach rebuffed earlier this tomorrow, put on 4.5p to

ened to 216.5p after the pack- group had 2.9 per cent. aging and paper group confirmed a long-running suspicion that it was in talks to merge its 46.5p per cent
US offshoot with another
American group.

138.5p and S&U, the credit
group, 27.5p to 362.5p.
Hi-Tec, the trainers group,

group, improved 5p to 260p, gaining 33 per cent to 51.5p a peak. Fund managers and after disclosing it was seeking analysts are examining its a US partner, presumably US operations.

a US partner, presumably willing to bid for full control. US operations.

IT group, gained 32.5p to on chairman David Gradel's 970p on reports that Mark 27p-a-share bid plan.

selling around 18.5 per cent of the capital to finance his

Palace football club. Spargo Consulting strengporting "significant progress" and Aspen, the communications group, held at 110p following sales by Photobition, which saw its takeover apmonth. It cut its stake to 2.1 per cent, selling shares at 90p. At 622p. cent, selling shares at 90p. At Jefferson Smarfit hard- one time the printing services

> Profit disappointment took its inevitable toll. Carrs Milling tumbled 17.5p to

Ashstead, the plant hire enjoyed the day's best run, MSB International, the UK Estates rose 3p to 25.5p TAKING STOCK

STOCKBROKER Teather & Greenwood makes its stock market debut tomorrow. He reverse take over of NRP. au AIM-listed property and cash shell formerly called Nationwide Residential Properties. has been completed. Shares were placed at 70p, against the 69.5p suspension in January. T&G was one of the City's last remaining stockbroker partnerships.

WATERMARK, an advertising and marketing specialist. should produce profits of around £1.2m this year, believes stockbroker Durlacher, Last year the AIMlisted company which plans a full listing, made £1 m, up from £653,000. The shares were little changed at 47.5p.

JOHN LUSTY, the food group paying £5.4m for a distributor of Mediterranean foods, has lost its biggest private shareholder, DR Rapoport. Re sold 12.5 million shares (7.6 per cent), seemingly at 10p. The shares shaded 0.25p to

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It has never been easier to run a business from home and to work on the move. In a special report, we survey the range of possibilities

Technology tailored to your needs

By Harvey Morris

hardware and software, it is now possible to run a small business directly from a reliable mail or- even a home-based one – that only a decade ago would have required its own premises and the services of accountants. printers, salesmen and shorthand typists.

Computers can't make the morning coffee yet, but no doubt that will come.

Costs will vary but a reasonable global sum to set aside to computerise your business is £3,000. This will cover the ba-

'Don't spend a fortune if you need only routine letters and invoices'

sic computer and communications set-up, give you the ability to fax, e-mail and handle your accounts. On top of that, you will need more advanced software, depending on what kind of business you are in.

checklist to determine your needs. There is no point, for instance, in spending lots of mon- ed towards the United States. ev on equipment that can turn. In the future, you may also want if you require only text-based

If you are starting from scratch, aim for as high-powered

Windows 95 or Windows NT, or USING off-the-shelf computer the small-business standard.

tinuing, on-site support.

tax and VAT liabilities.

You will also need a modern installed if you want to send and receive e-mail and if you want your computer to handle faxes. You will also want an Internet account, if only to hunt down

There are a number of programmes available on the Internet that let you look up the addresses of specific categories of potential customers accord-It is important to make a ling to their geographical location, although at the moment these tend to be heavily weightout ultra-high quality graphics to use the Internet to receive payment for your goods and ser-

Whatever business you are a computer as you can afford: don't spend a fortune on a a Pentium II system running state-of-the-art laser printer if

a Power Mac, are regarded as

Consider buying your system der supplier such as Dan, Dell or Gateway rather than from a high street store. They are usually better placed to tailor and deliver a system to your specific needs and most have a good standard of after sales service. particularly if you pay for con-

Ask for a system that comes with a suite of business software installed, such as Microsoft Office 97. If you are going to be handling your own accounts, you can also buy fairly cheap financial management packages such as Microsoft's Money 98 suite or Quicken. You can use these programs to track not just income and expenditure but also to keep a running check on

potential clients.

rices on-line.

in, you will need a printer. But



and invoices - a high street inkjet printer, at around £200, together with your installed office

you only need to produce rou- a significant amount of photoexpensive. For routine photocopying you can use a scanner.

tine, professional-looking letters copying as part of your business, be used to scan illustrations to software that enables you to the on-line world as an "interyou might want to invest in a go with product information dedicated copier. But they are that can then be faxed or emailed to your clients.

You don't need to buy a sep-If you are going to be doing This need not cost you much arate fax machine. All new PCs you are away from the office. tegrate incoming material -say

more than £100 and it can also fitted with a modem come with Straight fax is now regarded in send and receive faxes direct im technology" a polite way of from your computer. It can also handle your incoming fax messages and voice calls while tile because it allows you to in-

saying it's out of date.

E-mail is much more versa-

Running your business from home: a reasonable sum for the equipment would be £3,000

a purchase order - into your computer database without having to retype it.

What if you work with number of other people in separate locations and you want to be able to work as a group? Netscape, the Internet browser makers, have just come up with a service that allows you to rent your own private office on the internet for a small monthly fee. This gives you the ability to share files and information over the Internet with your colleagues.

What can go wrong? Lots. Computers are sensitive beasts and can suddenly crash for no apparent reason. You could lose all your valuable data - a nightmare for any small business. It's therefore good insurance to have a renewable on-site service agreement with your hardware supplier, although this won't cover software glitches. To have a service contract that covers your whole system is usually prohibitively expensive for a home business.

But do invest in a Jaz or Zip drive. These are high-capacity floppy drives that can hold up to one gigabyte of information on a single disc. Get into the habit of regularly backing up your entire drive.

If everything crashes and you aren't backed up, don't panic. There are loss of small data recovery firms that advertise in the specialist magazines offering to recover the content. of your hard drive.

Making sense of the phone options

ONCE upon a time, there were two people. They were self-employed and they each had a telephone. Then one day they decided to form a partnership. They brought their phones together, and they started to think: O.K., so how do we get these to talk to each other, so we can pass people over

And that's how it starts. You need more than one line, or more than one person answering calls to the one number.

important to have digital services (because all those options you get when a company is keeping you on hold need a digital signal to activate them) and what actual difference it makes whether you have a wireless system or something cabled. And above all, how much it will cost you.

A useful first port of call is British Telecom, which remains the first option for most companies for the moment. Usefully, it sells modular systems so you can build them up as you go.

The BT Revelation supports up to four lines with 12 extensions, which can take phones, fax or answering machines and even a doorphone with a security latch. You can take three-way calls and you'll need a few BT Revelation Systemphones on the network.

A little more up-market is the Meridian Norstar Compact, also sold by BT. It can handle up to six exchange lines and 16 extensions but, again, it is modular, so you can buy as you

Whatever your phone needs, Guy Clapperton says start with modular systems to build as you go

need. A starter kit of one central control unit and plump for Digitally Enhanced Cordless Telethree M7310 Systemphones will cost you £11.65

marketing aggressively in the UK for some time in phone). and is selling heavily on service. If you want to look like a local company to your customers, C&W will give you a local number and divert it to your HQ miles away. It will divert your calls to any non-mobile phone out of office bours, and you can choose your own number for a price.

An alternative is to talk to a local cable company, most of which are hungry for market share and therefore likely to offer a service virtually

These organisations vary from area to area, but it is worth checking on them with an existing customer before taking the plunge - they often cut costs by using the cheapest subcontractor to do the cabling, and this sometimes means in-

experienced labour is taken on. It is also worth bearing in mind that, in the office, a cabled system means rearranging wires every time you change the office layout. If your

phones (DECT). DECT is a digital system for cordless phones. The competition has been quick to respond. This means it is more secure, the signal is stronger ber to call and not much else, unless you work to BT's challenge. Cable and Wireless has been and the call is clearer (often as good as on a wired-

> ple handsets from one point, each of which can pick up calls from several lines. This makes it a good way of setting up an ad hoc exchange in your office. DECT is quite expensive but it may be worth the price for the added flexibility and the reduced disruption.

Then there comes the time when you're out of the office but still want to be in touch. This is where a mobile phone is the obvious answer, but there are refinements you can add.

For example, Vodafone's Corporateworld system lets you integrate your mobile and deskbound telephones and treat the mobile versions as if they were ordinary extensions. This means your customers don't know whether they are being put through to you while you're in the office or visiting a client.

It means you don't lose calls through people company will be playing musical chairs often, not bothering to follow up when the reception-

ist tells them they can try you on your mobile. It's useful if you're likely to be on the road a lot, and Vodafone says customers with as few as fifty phones have been able to save money using it, so don't be put off by the name.

Failing that, pagers can be indispensable. You can go for numeric or text models; the numeric ones are cheaper and will tell you which numout some sort of code.

The running costs will be more than the ini-What is more, the system can handle multi- tial outlay on the product; BT starts off with its EasyReach service for home users and extremely small businesses, the basic version of which costs a one-off £39.99 plus 25p per call for a numeric service only. Text costs more, and there are advanced services for larger companies.

Future developments will come from elsewhere. Internet companies are starting to realise that there is mileage to be made connecting their customers through the Net, so you could get an international call for the same cost as a local one.

Computer Telephony Integration (CTI) is a flashy way of saying you can hitch your phone system to the computer which will then act as a voicemail or fax message centre, helping to log calls and manage your communications for you. This is a heck of a leap for smaller businesses but it will become increasingly common as long as the millennium bug doesn't murder us all in



The way things were: telegrams were once seen as the speedy way to send messages



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Home Office THE NEXT HOME IMPROVEMENT

Beware the hidden costs of mobile phones

Simon Rockman charts a course through the confusing vand expensive - range of products and services available

lovely new handsets in them, times. you should think carefully about the real cost: the contract.

pales into insignificance compared with the cost of signing the wrong bit of paper. Typically you will spend £40 a month using your phone, that is around you've paid for a case and a spare battery and tipped the taxi driver for returning it when you left it in the back of his cab. Get in choosing Vodafone and Cellit wrong and you could pay as

much as £800 over the odds. Try to gauge how much you'll use a phone each day and multiply up for a month's usage. At the end of last year, Orange Many tariffs include bundled little over what you expect. Re- now the difference is much less member to factor in the time of clear cut. What matters is how rental for the outstanding day when you will be calling, and well a particular network cov-

BEFORE you even look into 10. One 2 One offers free local a phone. Many dealers run a the shing capitacts with all those calls on some tariffs and at some scheme under which you can

Calling other mobiles is expensive, but it is usually cheap-The difference between a er if they are on the same £20 phone and a £120 phone network as you. For this reason there are schemes on One 2 which give you discounts and other advantages if you buy two phones as a package. Orange £500 in the first year once says around 10% of customers use its Talkshare scheme.

> was a clear coverage advantage One. You would expect to pay more on the network which was more likely to give you service. and One 2 One rolled out new areas at a spectacular rate and

take a phone back within 14 days if it does not work the way you want; you then pay only for the calls you've made.

This is great if you expect to use a phone away from highly One, Orange and Vodafone populated areas or if you live in a basement, since it gives you a chance to try the phone before being committed. That commitment usually lasts a year.

Recent moves by the De-There was a time when there partment of Trade and Industry have made it easier to terminate contracts. It used to net over Orange and One 2 be the norm that you had to give three months' notice of termination, but in most cases this has been reduced to a month. against this. Check that this is the case.

You will not be able to terminate before the end of the first year unless you pay the you do not have to commit yourmonths. Carphone Warehouse



Ringing the changes: two women make use of their mobiles on the London Underground

An easier solution is to use pre-pay phone. Here the handset costs a lot more, but self to a contract. The idea is still relatively new in the UK but in where you will be making calls ers the areas in which you use offers a £15 insurance scheme other countries it has become

phone. To use a pre-pay scheme by buying scratch cards with left. The service is available on code numbers on. You type the Vodafone analogue, One 2 the number into the phone and One and Orange networks.

a popular first step to buying a for a fixed period of time after its on the services - such as in- before, you do not know how you enter the code, regardless you have to top-up the phone of how many minutes you have use. As a rule, the Vodafone ser- you can hope to do is make a it gives you time on the phone. Calls on all these are very ex- choice is probably impossible.

ternational calls - that you can vice is the cheapest to use. One 2 One has the best handset.

Making the best possible You can receive incoming calls pensive and there are often lim- If you have never had a mobile

reasonable choice which will save you from unnecessarily enriching the phone companies. ☐ Simon Rockman is editor of

WORKING on your own or in a its forms, but especially e-mail, can improve efficiency a hundredfold. writes Steve Homer.

It can make you more efficient still if you know how to take the Internet with you when you go out and about. You can receive drawings when you are in a meeting with clients, you can stay in touch and you can do research. Mobile data can be

By plugging your mobile phone download e-mails, browse the Worldconnect with the corporate network pretty much wherever you are.

bly slow and can be nureliable, speed up site assessments. In the 30 per cent.

working on your own or in a small business is all about maximal efficiency. The Internet in all Expanding the reach of digital data systems

However it can also be extremely convenient, can provide a useful lifeline where no other facilities are available, can save you money and can create all sorts of new business opportunities and improvements that simply did not exist before mobile rectly to Solaglas's central call

insurance companies across the country replacing glass for domes-Wide Web, send or receive a fax or tic and business customers. Solaglas's network of surveyors and glaziers now use Apple Newton Mes-The mebile data option is herri- sage Pads and BT-GSM phones to helped improve efficiency by some

past, damage assessments were hapdled through paper forms on site, which were then handed over for cen-

Using the new system, a surveyor can send an electronic form diununications came on the scene. centre. The surveyor can also check For example, Solaglas works with parts availability (if necessary initiating an order) and so can advise customers in much more detail about likely order completion times. This has cut processing costs and improved customer service and has

Anyone can set up this sort of business improvement. The modern GSM network used by the Vodafone and Cellnet digital services and the PCN service (sometimes known as GSM 1800) of Orange and One 2 One allow communications at 9,600 bits per second (bps). This is very slow compared to today's office moderns, which can communicate at

To make a data call you need a data card to slot into your portable computer, a mobile phone and a ca-spread of data communications.

36,000 bps or faster, but still more

than adequate for many useful func-

tions such as fax and e-mail.

ble to connect the two. (Some newer phones do not need the data card, but most do.) You also need the same sort of communications software as in the office.

Companies such as Nokia and Ericsson produce GSM phones so small that they will fit into the PC card slot on the side of the computer. These little devices are quite expensive and pretty useless as normal mobile phones, but for the dedicated data warrior they make a sensible compromise. More importantly, they represent a first step in the

Information is not just sent out and received by GSM and PCN phone services. If your business has a more structured communications need, you should investigate the packet data services such as RAM mobile data. These companies offer a much cheaper solution for data-

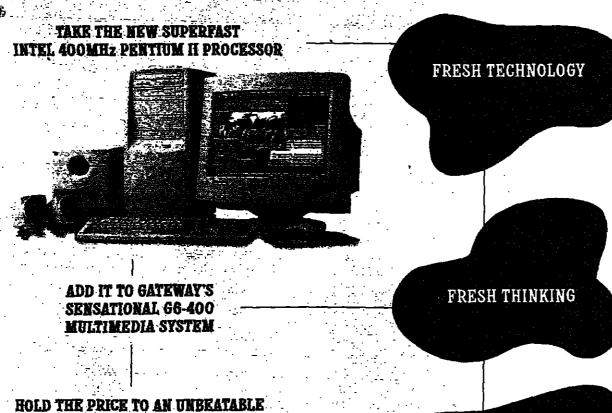
intensive requirements. And just around the corner anshould double in speed. But we are choice of lunch meetings,

also going to see data spread much more widely and delivered by different means.

Later this year the Iridium satellite phone systems will be launched. Iridium will allow you to make and receive phone calls anywhere on the planet. The bad news is that you will only be able to use a data rate of a criminally slow 2,400 bps. Other faster services will be launched within a couple of years and Iridium can be expected to offer special data services sometime after launch.

But quite a different type of data application will be taking off in a year other revolution is due to take place. or two. It is possible that in a year Firstly, we are likely to see the or two we will use a very simple lospeed of GSM networks improved by cal connection to download local 20 per cent in the next 18 months or maps into our portable computers, so, and a year or two after that they as well as lists of restaurants for a

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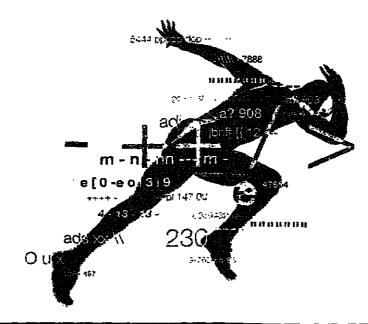
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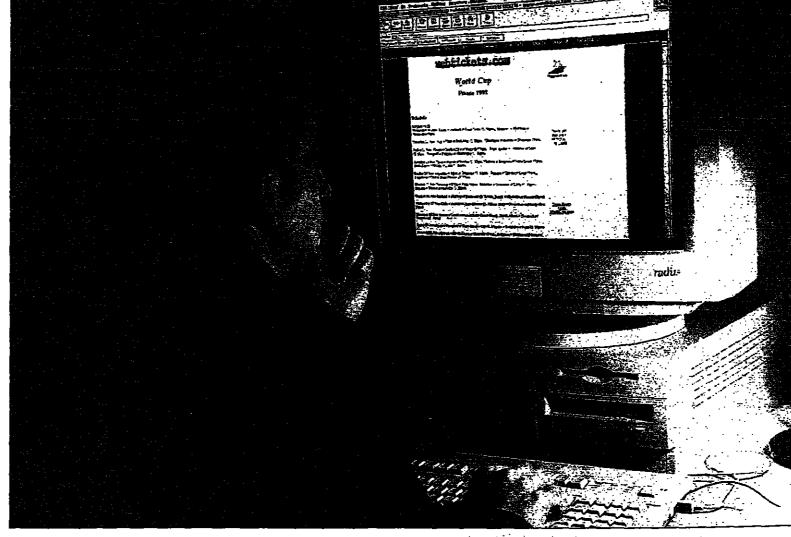
Getting wired to the Web

Intimidated by the Internet? Harvey Morris provides a beginner's guide to cyber-surfing

IT SEEMS only five minutes ago that the Internet was being dismissed as the preserve of geeks and paedophiles. Now everything from primary schools to the corner shop scems to be "wired" and you are starting to think you have missed the boat. Never fear. Only a fraction of people - even in the developed world - are online. So there is plenty of time

to catch up.
Taking it from the bottom up, you need three things to get on-line: a computer, a modem and an Internet service provider. Entry-level home PCs or Macs now retail for less than £1,000 and most packages include a modem, which connects you to the Internet via your regular phone line. Modems are rated according to their speed, generally 28K, 33K or 56K. Do not worry about what the numbers mean. Just remember, the higher the number, the faster the connection and avoid anything under 28K.

Next, you will need to link up to an Internet service provider, an ISP. This could be credit card. a big telecom company such as BT, or one of the on-line sertailor-made information services as part of their packages. Monthly fees can vary from £5 to £15 a month, depending on what is provided. Do not forget that you pay for your phone connections on top of that, so the more you surf, the more you spend. Buy any of the monthly specialist magazines, such as Internet, .net or Internet, Works, to find lists of service providers. The magazines usually include CD-Rom discs promoting free ternet providers. If you're hap-you to tune in to web sites.



The future is on-line: with basic and user-friendly equipment your pages will be constantly available to the rest of the world

can sign up on-line using your

There are three things to look out for when going on-line: vices such as AOL or Com- make sure the ISP offers local puserve that also provide call access (if you live in Leeds, you don't want to be dialling up London every time you wish to get on to the Net): next, make sure the ISP offers you an e-mail address, so that you can e-mail all your "wired" friends and tell them you have joined the 20th century; finally, find out if the ISP offers free web space (five megabytes is the standard) for when you decide to start publishing. Your ISP will also give you a browser, usually from Netscape or Microsoft. This is one-month trials of selected In- a piece of software that allows

on magazine CD-Roms and they are free.

So, you are logged on. What next? What is the Internet anyway? And who runs it? The Internet, or at least the bit you will he most interested in at first the World-Wide Web - is just a collection of computers, ranging from desktops like yours to huge mainframes, all linked up via the phone line.

Nobody runs the Internet, although various authorities in the United States and elsewhere have responsibility for assigning addresses - all those ".coms" and ".co.uks" you come across. Your browser will invariably open up at your ISP's site but it is easy to change that later on. Just click on highlighted "links"

what is available on the Net or unique to you. It will not be very tap in a keyword on one of the user-friendly - something like big search engines like Yahoo www.myprovider.com/joeor Infoseek, which catalogue smith123/homepage" - but thenweb sites. You will soon find you you are not paying for it. To get can locate anything, from bus a more memorable address timetables in Latvia to the run- such as "www.joesmith.com" ners in the 3:30 at Kempton. will cost you about £50 to set up That is fun for a while, but the real kick comes when you start publishing for yourself.

Start by using the free space your ISP has assigned to you. in hypertext mark-up language, What you need to do is find out HTML. Do not be put off. That from the ISP how to upload files to their computer. From there, your pages will be constantly available to the rest of ferent from old-style printers' the world. So-called FTP soft- marks on paper. The code tells ware for uploading your files the browser how the page is to usually comes free as part of be displayed. The easiest way to

plus another £30 or so a year. Practise with the free space from the ISP to see how you go.

The files you upload must be is just plain text that you can write on a word processor, plus some special code which is not that dif-

ning, look for one that is WYSI-WYG or "What You See Is What You Get". Microsoft make one called FrontPage (Claris Home. Page is designed for Macs) and, again, you can usually find a free trial on a maguzine disc. You type up your page as you would on a word processor, add some illustrations, and the software does the rest. Look at other people's pages to see how your page might look.

One final tip: every piece of software you'll ever need, and every bit of advice on how to use it, is available from your desktop once you're hooked up to the Internet. And the specialist magazines are packed with your subscription. You will also construct a page is to get hold of information on how to find

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

insure properly

By Lee Rodwell

WHEN Carol Whiter went back to work after a five-year break she looked for a job which would fit around her family. Now, like a growing number of working mothers, she runs her own business from home.

Carol bought a franchise has been running a nanny agency from the guest bedroom which doubles as an office in her North Finchley house.

One of the first things she did was to check out insurance cover. She says: "Being a franchisee gives me group professional indemnity insurance, but I also contacted my household insurers, to see if I was covered if a would-be nanny came for an interview and fell down the stairs. I also wanted to know if the computers and fax machine which I use for work needed to be covered separately."

Fortunately, Carol was told she did not need to take out any additional business insurance. a business from a B-and-B? And, because the house is never empty during the day, the premiums actually fell.

According to Ray Temple. underwriting manager for Tolson Messenger's Home-Business schemes, household insurers have recently become more enlightened about extending their standard contents policies to meet the needs of people who work from home. mum premium costs £125 a However, he points out that it is important to let household insurers know it you are intending to use your home as a workplace, and to make sure that the cover they offer is adequate for your needs.

be a £5,000 limit for office equipment," he says. "That's fine if you only have a computer or two and no stock. But it's no use for peo- at home, bringing in the houseple like graphic designers who need more expensive state-of-theart hardware and software. That is why is a stand-alone policy, like business expense."

one of our Home-Business ones. which can cover up to £20,000 worth of equipment and supplies, may be better."

In fact, working from home. seen through the eyes of an insurance broker, seems a pretty dangerous affair, fraught with awful possibilities.

A client arrives, trips over a and for the past two years she fraved carpet in your hallway and breaks a leg. Your dog bites the woman who comes in three times a week to do your paperwork. You visit a client in his office, spill your coffee over his computer and bring his whole business to a sudden halt.

Unlikely? Perhaps, but Mr Temple points out the wisdom of envisaging the worst possible scenario. "Take the recent bad weather." he says. "Suppose your home had been flooded. Your household insurance may provide for you to be rehoused in temporary accommodation while renovations are carried out. That may seem all right. but would you still be able to run

"We have one client whose house needs underpinning because of subsidence. It's full of dust, he can't concentrate on his writing, so we're contributing to his renting another house until

the work is done." S-Tech Insurance Services is another established homeworker policy provider. Like Tolson Messenger, their minivear. Managing director Sean Walker says: "The problem with household policies being extended for business use is that they are trying to be all things to all men. Inevitably there will he gaps. You may not be cov-"It's pretty typical for there to ered for employer's liability. public liability or professional indemnity."

> "In our view, anyone working hold's main income, should go for stand-alone insurance. After all, it can be put down as a genuine



Offers end 15th May



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Time points to Hand as an alternative to Xaar

the message from Chris Wright, produce that on Guineas day, who compiles Timeform's However, his success in the

ed a time figure of \$30 when ... figure of any contender for the winning the Description Stakes at race.

Newmarker last year Fliat is a ... "The next best after that was

ure as especially be will need tables to have made normal improve-

However, his success in the respected time figures about. Craven Stakes strongly sug-the probable outcome in Sat-gests he has trained on, in fact uiday's 2,000 Guineas. The figure of 117 he recorded Wright says. Xaar record-that day is the second highest

figure which an a normal year, by Daggers Drawn last year, but is considered Classic winning standard.

San achieved that figson to believe he can turn the he has twice been beaten by

The clock backs the Guineas favourite and indicates his chief rivals. Ian Davies reports

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DSIGS THEOREMORED (FIZ) (D) Mrs J Magner A P OSine 6 12 0. C F Swan (M1930 SPACE TRUCKER (44) (D) Mrs J Magner A P OSine 6 12 0. C F Swan (M1930 SPACE TRUCKER (44) (D) Mrs E Queelly Mrs J Harrington 7 11 8 N Williamson 8 1-004 GRIMES (25) (CD) (J P McManus) C Roche 5 11 C O'Dwyer 615-21 KNARRAWAN (27) (D) J P McManus) C Roche 6 11 FM Serry (5) 44-600 SOLONO STAR (FIS) (D) Berkeley Syndicate) S Treaty 7 10 11 T P Triaty 8 14-962 SATINE-DARRIG (16) (D) (W P Renwi) W P Mallier 7 10 11 R Damacody 2-11FO SAOW FALCON (F11) (D) Factor Syndicate) T Tasks 5 10 11 P Carbotry 001/0 WRAY (F31) (Ms 8 Currengham) L Brown 6 10 11 A Magner - 9 declared - 10 Ms Service Mathematical 11-2 Grimes 13-2 Space Truckey Mathematical 1-2 Grimes 13-2 Space 11-2 Grimes 13-2 Space 11-2 Grimes 11-2 Grimes

- 9 Seciared -BETTING: 2-1 Khayrawani, 5-1 Theatreworld, 11-2 Grinces, 13-2 Space Trucker, Native-Derrig, 7-1 Solino Star, 10-1 Khazasar, 14-1 Wray, 20-1 Scow Falcon 1997: Cady Casby 6 10 11 A O'Shea 12-1 (A Malins) 10 ran

ishing in the ruck at Chepstow. He came good again when siamming Little Sarena four langths easing up on a return to the Welsh track and the sotter the going the better hell side. It. Counterf has done as his winning over timber on a fast surface but accret on the sort on the Rest at Cagnes when in Smon Dow's stable. Tickerty's Giff has yet to win away from Lingfield, where he has gone in eight times. Wadada won a two-miler here the time before test and is a stone better in with Derisabley, who was a 20-langth fourth, Dat Buchhell's mare will not fail through lack of stamina - site has won over sightly further than this - but was beaten 24 langths in seventh to Rossmore Girl at Luckyw last time which lant encouraging.

Selection: COUBARIL

3.50 WIVELSFIELD GREEN HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) 25,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,558

Mainum weight: 10st. Title handicaji weight: Sage Player St. BETTING: 9-4 Foodbroker Star, 3-1 Regal Aura, 4-1 Scobis Girl, 13-2 Native Venture, 7-1 Early Drinker, 10-1 Stage Player

SCOBIE GIRL has toppled over fines this season but, going off tavounte here 16 days ago, she was always travelling like a winner and came home by seven lengths from Sastinghurst Flyer. That might not have been too hot a heat but then again neither is this and Scobie Girl, with her confidence boosted, can make her first appearance in hand-cap company a winning one. The extra three hurlongs should pose no problems. Foodbroker Star hasn't won since December of 1996 and has had enough chances this season.

broker Star hasn't wan since December of 1996 and has had enough chances this season. Still, he was a six-tength numer-up behind Eulogy at Sandown the time before last and could be the one to test Scobe Girl though the two stone concession may prove too much. Blegal Aure, after a four-length second to Colonel Blazer at Leicestar, went one better over course and distance seven weeks ago and is only 4th higher for this. Native Venture, on the strength of a staying-on two-length second to Just Bruce at Leicestar, went off favourite for Regal Aureis race but was always towards the rear and was talked off when pulsed up before four out. He could improve for the first-time blinkers, however. Stage Player is getting on it years but was 22 lengths clear of the third when running Andenbar to a length from 5th out of the handscap at Falsenham and campo be ruled out of the handscap at Falsenham and campo be ruled.

4.20 NELSON HURST NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) \$2,900 added 2m 4f Penalty Value \$2,306

-9 declared idam weight: 10st. The handicap weights, Ashor Scr Sto, Fountain Ville 9st 6tb, Referensel 9st 4b,
TIBNG: 6-4 Proceed, 11-4 Fountain Ville, 33-1 others
FORM GUIDE
TORING: 5-1 Fountain Ville, 33-1 others
FORM GUIDE
TORING: 5-1 Fountain Ville, 33-1 others
FORM GUIDE

PROCEED, a 12-length tourth to Gampati over and extended three miles on heavy go

recording at Chelentram a fortright ago, went in over course and distance before their and is 2b better off with the two-length second, Fountain Bild (later a 22- length to Belmore Rock at Fortwell). This is an easier race and my selection looks set to return to without form. Proceed might have most to lear from Positivo, who finally struck form or the sort at Towcoster last time despite being "Sib wrong in the weights. Although penalised 7b. Positivo goes off an Sib lower mark this time.

4.55 COOKSBRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) 23,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £2,490

-2P212 FOUNTAIN 8ID (5) (R Dean) R Dean 6 11 10

£40,000 added 2m Penalty Value £24,800

thought to be wrong when beaten by Xaar in the Dewhurst, He might run well, but perhaps the most interesting each-way

"He notched a figure of 110 when winning a Doncaster nursery last year and, although we don't rate Italian races, it seems safe to assume he showed fur-"Central Park posted a de- ther improvement when winGwyn throwing up useful fig-ures, the 1,000 Guineas is wide open from a time perspective.

"That being the case, although we don't rate French races, my view is that Loving Claim could run well. Although

Punters are searching for alternatives to Xaar in the 2,000 and Lend A Hand and Central Park, along with Haami and Border Arrow were the best backed horses yesterday, the lat-

with Coral. "The public clearly France Galop, the ruling think Xaar is beatable," Simon Clare, of Coral, said, "and we are

NAP: Scobie Girl (Plumpton 3.50) NB: August Twelfth

Friday's Newmarket card will now include the Sagaro jures after being involved in a Stakes, transferred from to-pile-up on the turn from the back

body of French racing, yesterday approved the leasing of Evry racreourse to Godolphin as a private training centre for their two-year-olds under the care of David Loder. The terms of the five-year contract stipulates that Godolphin will pay an annual index-linked rent of FF4m

· Kevin Darley and Tyrone Williams escaped with minor instraight at Nottingham vesterday.

Games in smog threat

ENGLISH athletes will be left to decide for themselves if they want to compete in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur this September.

Fears have been raised that the levels of pollution in the Malaysian capital could endanger athletes, with one leading sports doctor claiming breathing the air is the equivalent of smoking "1.000 cigarettes a month".

New Zealand's team doctor, Richard Edmond, said competitors may have to wear masks to combat the filthy, polluted air. Edmond said: "I've read that breathing the smog there is the equivalent of smoking 1,000 eigarettes a month.

So you can imagine what that does to lungs, and people who aren't used to that certainly will be affected with their breathing. I think we'll have to take loss of oxygen with us and try to get to them as soon as possible. I don't like the thought of athletes having to wear masks. I think if it got that bad then they just couldn't compete."

England's team manager. Ann Hogbin, said: "We will not endanger our athletes. We will make them aware of the situation so that they do not knowingly damage their health by competing.

But Mike Fennell - the chairman of the Commonwealth Games Federation said: "There have been no talks with Australia at any level. Kuala Lumpur is on schedule to deliver a spectacular Games."

Meanwhile, the International Olympic Committee president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, vesterday called on international sports organisations to step into line in the war on drugs. Samaranch made his call on

the day insulin was added to the IOC's list of banned substances. and diuretics were upgraded to the same status as steroids because of their ability to mask the use of harder drugs.

Weekend fixtures and pools forecast

FA Carling Premiership 1 Bolton v Crystal Palace 2 Leicester v Barnsley Also playing (not on coupons): Cover v Blackburn, Shetfield Wednesday v As

Villa, Sunday: Arsenal v Everton, Mod Manchester Utg v Leeds Nationwide Football League

First Division
Sunday (130): Birmingham v Cheriton;
Bradford City v Portsmouth; Huddersheid v
Port Vale: Ipswich v Crewe; Middlesbrough
Oxford Utd. Queens Park Rangers v Eury;
Reading v Norwich; Stockport v Shelfield
Utd: Stoke v Manchester City; Swindon v
Sunderland; Tranmere v Wolves West Sunderland; Tranmere v Woh Bromwich v Nortingham Forest Second Division

in Fulham v Wartord 13 Luton v Cerisie 14 Milwall v Bournemouth

15 Preston v Bristol City..... 18 York v Northamoton Third Division 19 Cardiff v Derlington 20 Chester v Scarborough

24 Leyton Orient v Torquay 25 Lincoln Crty v Brighton 26 Mansfield v Swansea. 27 Notis County v Rotherham 28 Peterborough v Hardepool 29 Rochdale v Barnet

Bell's Scottish League Premier Division
31 Hibernian v Dundee Utd 2

Also playing Incl on coupons): Aberdeen v Heens Durfermine v Celtic, Rangers v Kilmarnock. First Division

33 Ambre v RaithX 34 Ayr v Falkrik2 35 Dundes v Parack1 36 Hamilton v Morton2 37 String Albon v St Mirren2 Second Division 38 Clydebank v Queen of the South t

42 Stranvaer v Livingston X Third Division

46 Montrose v Dumbarton 1 47 Queens Park v Ross County X GM Vauxhall Conference

Four draws: Wimbledon v Tottenham, Ex eter v Macclesfield, Stranfaer v Livingston vs: Bristol City, Barnet, Falkirk, East Ten homes: Solton, Leitzester, Liverpool, Ful-ham, Notts County, Peterborough, St John-stone, Dundee, Forter, Montrose,

INDEPENDENT

0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS 971 981 ASCOT EXETER 972 982 PLUMPTON 973 983 CHELTENHAM(E) 974

XAAR and Xaar again. That is ment from two to three to re-

- "The next best after that was prospect is Lend A Hand.

cent figure last year and was ning a Group One race there subsequently,"

Wright reckons the 1,000 Guineas is far less clear cut. He says: "The best figures in the race come from last year's Lowther Stakes in which Embassy recorded a 110 and Cape Verdi a 107. However, these figtires are way below Classic standard and, with neither the Fred Darling Stakes nor the Nell

bred to want beyond a mile she is an unexposed contender."

seeing money for most of the RICHARD EDMONDSON

(Plumpton 2.45)

principals to beat the favourite." ter contracting to 16-1 from 25-1 day's abandoned Ascot meeting.

(£400,000).

McCoy's Song too powerful for Ballerina

2.40 STANLEY COOKER CHAMPION NOVICE HURDLE

(GRADE 1) £40,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £24,800

3.15 HEINEKEN GOLD CUP NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE

HYPERION

George: Soil (Pressy in pages)

Delth-land, unclusing course with sherp bends. Tricky downfill lence in back streight.

Course is off A275 south of Haywards Heath. Plumpton station adjoins course. AD-MISSION: Members €13: Tationsalls £B; Centre of course £4 per car plus £5 per person.

MISSIONE METHODS 2.10, MISSIONE METHODS 2.10,

2.10 HOVE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 4YO

BETTING: 47 Sun Alert. 11-2 Certain Surprise, 7-1 Sites, 10-1 Sovereign, 16-1 Victorie House,

Successful on the level in a time-runner medient at Yermouth in June, SUN ALERT has progressed with each of her time runs over timber. Only four lengths of the winner when fourth to Doyenne at Doncester in February, the Alyshebs filty was a 20-length third to Good Lord Sturphy at Sandown and justified tenourities over an extended two and a

fillies 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,204

3.50 Scoble Girl

4.55 Tough Act (rib)

4.20 Proceed

(GRADE 1) £60,000 added 3m 1f Penalty Value £37,200

TONY McCOY recorded a downpour that threatens the

Punchestown

Plumpton

LINKERED FIRST TIME: Native Venture (3.50).

2.10 Sifwa

2.45 Brook Bee

3.20 Coubaril

and Indilers Time: On ground the odds on French Ballerina in With Klairon Davis also crashnumer heavy by a continuous the Champion Novices' Hurdle, ing, Big Matt took the prize.

McCoy ended up on the MATTHEW McCLOY yesterdouble at the Punishestown Fest three-day meeting. His Song redeck when Edredon Bleu fell in day defended the BHB against thyal yesterday on His Song versed Cheltenham form with the BMW Handicap Chase. ing a new chairman. The board's industry committee chairman

played down a claim that he is having second thoughts.

Exeter

5.05 Sprig Muslin

ready to stand for the job him- and Michael Stoute claimed in aster for British racing". The self, after a report that leading a letter to the press yesterday trio, each backing Peter Savill's candidate Sir William Purves is that the "unsatisfactory" elec-bid for the post, criticised "clan-

McCloy defends BHB against criticism of top trainers

2.20 Brighstone 2.55 Kentish Bard 3.30 Bold

Dolphin 4.00 Capenwray 4.30 Defendtherealm

INSPECTION: 7,30an

INSPECTION: 7.30am
GOING: Soft (Heavy in planes).

● Right-hand, undulating course Run-in of 250 yeards.

● Course is 5m SW of Exeter on ASR, ADMISSION: Grandstand & Paddock Ch; SAver Ring 25 CAR PARK: 22 rais or club; rest free LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 67-222 (25%). Miss H Knight 34-15 (25%), Photbs 26-722 (197%), R Frost 18-15 (124%).

● LEADING JOCKET'S: D Setter 7-71 (19%), S Burrough 7-80 (88%).

LAspell 4-12 (30.5%), J Culloty 4-25 (13.2%).

● FAVOURITES: 203-629 (38.4%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None

2.20 BODMIN NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,200 added 2m 2f

2.55 EXMOOR 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) E3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

Luca Cumani. John Gosden "vet another public relations distion process has the makings of destine manoeuvrings".

BETTING: 11-4 Pher Better, 6-1 Albermarie, 7-1 Zaggy Lane, 8-1 Go Go Henry, Kentish Bard, 10-1 Abavard, 12-1 Bramblehti Chief, 14-1 others

- 4 declared -BETTING: 4-5 River Bay, 11-10 Bold Dolphin, 25-1 Fortytwo Dec, 33-1

| 4.00 | RACING CHANNEL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,500 added 2m 3f 110yds | PA104 | THUMBS UP (29) (C) G McCourt 2 7) 10 | Mr D Hanney (7) | PETI CAPENWRAY (15) (CD) J Mcg 9 11 | S | W Marston 4 | FIFPT MR PLAYPILL (5) (CD) P Hoots 10 10 | Mr R Widger (7) | Frest 4 | 6994 | RAMSTAR (359) (D) P Hoots 10 10 | Mr R Widger (7) | Frest 2 G RATOMI (14) (D) P Referens 6 10 6 | S | For 1 | S | G RATOMI (14) (D) P Referens 6 10 6 | S | CRESTON CO. 2 | G RATOMI (14) (D) P Referens 6 10 6 | CRESTON CO. 2 | G RATOMI (14) (D) P REFERENS 6 10 6 | CRESTON CO. 2 | G RATOMI (14) (D) P REFERENS 6 10 6 | CRESTON CO. 2 | CRESTON CO.

BETTING: 7-4 Gratomi, 2-1 Capemersy, 7-2 Thumbs Up. 6-1 Mr Playfull,

4.30 COOPERS & LYBRAND HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £4,000 2m 3f 110yds 6 3FF621 SUMRISE SPECIAL (15) (C) P Rodiced 5 0 ... S Beardugh 7 2456 SOUTHERN RIDGE (42) R Frest 7 10 5 ... & R Andolsworth 8 F 12236 LYPHARD'S FABLE (7) T George 7 10 3 ... E Husband (3)

8 F1223 LETTING: 5-2 Pomme Secret, 7-2 Handy Lass, 4-1 Survise Special, 9-7 Defending resident 10-1 Enchanted Cottage, 12-1 others 5.05 DARTMOOR CONDITIONALS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (F) £2,500 2m 2f

Cheltenham

5.25 Cedar Square 6.00 Teston Mill 6.35 Holland House 7.10 Last Option 7.45 Cavalero 8.15 Warren Boy

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft patches). GUING: GOOD to Soft (Soft patches).

Left-hand, galloping course with stiff fences.

Course is im N of town off A435 ADMISSION: Club & Tadersals 512 (6-24 years, 20); Course Enclosure 25 CAR PARIC Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: I Bailding 5-17 (294%), Miss V Williams
4-18 (222%), R Williams 3-7 (429%), P Chamings 2-7 (286%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: Mr R Treloggen 2-6 (333%), Mr M Harris 2-6 (333%), Mr R Waitley 2-11 (82%), Mr C Vigors 2-14 (143%).

FAVOURTES: 29-54 (437%).

 FAVOURITES: 298-564 (39.7%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: The Flasher (525). Avoster & Scotoni (500), Prince Nepal (515), Pin Up Boy (visored, 635) LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLERS: Last Option (710) sent 133 miles 5.25 RACING CHANNEL MAIDEN HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m 5f

THE PRINT OF THE P

BETTING: 7-2 Moor Lane, 9-2 Helf's Mill, 11-2 Ceder Square, 8-1 Bit Cf An Idiol, 10-1 Thesiryman, 12-1 Hobrobber, J & Lad, Mr Mad, 14-1 others 6.00 FAUCETS PERRIN & ROWE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) 26,000 3m 2f 110yds CHASE (CLASS H) £5,000 3m 2f 10y0s

-Pri22 AVOSTAR (13) (BF) Mrs C Eaky ii 26 Mr B Poliock (5) B
3-mi STALERADGE SEL (13) (CD) J Dutases 8 26 Mars A Gascher (7)

11-mi TEETON MILL (35) Miss V Williams 9 26 Mrs Durack (3)

4P-21U SOME-TOY (28) (C) J Squire 2 23 ... Miss L Blackford (7)

211-2 DOUBLE THRILLER (Pils) R C Williams 8 20 Mr J Tizzard (5)

34-P22 FOX POINTER (5) (D) Mrs L Exerc 13 20 ... Mrs J Judase (5)

4P0386 SCOTONI (5) J R Sumern 12 12 Mrs S Joynes (7) B

-1221 JOY FOR LIFE (21) Mrs B Storage 7 11 2... July 5 Stronge (7)

BETTING: 6-4 Holland House, 11-4 The Makkuma, 7-1 Archer, High-ady Five, 10-1 Pin Up Boy, 14-1 Holy Sting, Orwell Ross, 20-1 others 7.10 BOWRING INTERMEDIATE HUNTER CHASE FINAL (H) £4,000 3m 1f 110yds 111-TH LAST OPTION (15) (D) R Tase 6 13 0 . . . Mrs F Needham 32213 ALL WEATHER (PtG) Mrs D Wiesmith 12 12 7 July M Wiesmith

2 32:73 ALL WEATHER (Prig) Mis D Wiesmith 12 12 7 Mir M Wiesmith (7)
3 Jum BLANK CHEOUE (Prig) JJ Coates 8 12 7 Mir D Coates (7)
4 PP235 COUNT BALLOS (Prig) M Wood 9 12 7 Mir S Bush (5)
5 32:712 GLENBRICKEN (P32) N king 12 72 7 Mir N King (7)
6 1-2:714 HAL'S PRINCE (PAS) TL Jones 7 12 7 Mir M A Datlon (7)
7 1-2:72 SAMULE (34) Mis A Harding 8 12 7 Mir G Bartoot-Saunt (7)
8 21:712 WESTERLANDS QUEEN (P22) H Marners 9 12 2 Mir G Bartoot-Saunt (7)
8 declared BETTING: 5-2 Lost Option, 7-2 Westerlands Queen, 4-1 Samule, 5-1 Blank Cheque, 13-2 Gleinbricken, 10-1 All Weather, 20-1 others 7.45 COLIN NASH UNITED HUNT HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) 53,000 3m 1f 110yds

CHASE (CLASS H) 23,000 3ff 11 110/05
403 BLAKGILARD (1025) (CD) 1 Grasso 2 2 3 Mr J Grassick (7)
mm CAVALERO (7) (D) H Marriers 9 2 3 Mr A Charles-Jones (7)
2/20 DOUBLE SIX (36) (D) BP) R D Vibrar 1 2 3 Mr J Tream (8)
5/55/P MYSTC MANNA (70) Mrs Matheson 2 2 3 Mr J Rees (7)
6/102/P RUSTY FELLOW (4) R Stal 6 2 3, Mr D Mansel (7)
P/23/24 DOUBTING DONNA (8) S Hughes 2 11 2 Mr D S Jones (7)
- 8 declared -

- B declared -BETTING: 8-11 Cavalero, 9-4 Double SRx, 8-1 Doubting Donna, 14-1 Sked-guard, 16-1 Rusty Fellow, 25-1 Mystic Menna 8.15 BETTY COLEY HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

HYPERION

☐ LEADING TRAINERS, Mrs M Reveley 39-141 (277%), M Hammond 34-17 (205%), G Richards 21-99 (212%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 47-53 (307%), A Dobbin 29-69 (172%), B Storey 23-96 (124%), R Gernity 15-66 (22.7%) FAVOURITES: 171-49 (40.8%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Durano (visored, 650).

5.45 MCLEAN CONTRACTS MAIDEN HUR-DLE (CLASS D) £3,750 2m 110yds

- 9 declared -SETTING: 11-18 Ingletonian, 7-2 Cuthill Hope, 11-2 Hom N Eggs, 7-1 Adamat-ic, 12-1 Suprema Soviet, 25-1 Astraleon, Patter Marchant, 66-1 others 6.50 ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND HANDI-CAP HURDLE (D) 27,000 2m 110yds 437201 CHARMING ADMIRAL (21) (CD) Mrs A Swittenis 5 11 11 ______ Supple 8 7.25 MASON ORGANISATION HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 55,500 3m 1f 30-PUP WHISPERING STEEL (61) (D) G Acterds 2 12 0 ... B Storey 2 20505 BETTER TIMES AHEAD (18) (C) (D) G Acterds 12 17 9 ... 2 6-2502 KILCOLGAN (16) (CD) Ms J Cooxisiow 11 14 M Harmity (7)

2 6-2502 KILCOLGAN (16) (CD) Ms J Cooxisiow 11 14 M Harmity (7)

3 42021 NAUGHTY FUTURE (9) (D) J J O'Nell 9 10 13 (5e) 1

5 12PU2 GEMS LAD (29) (D) Ms S S min 11 01 10 ... G F Ryan (2)

5 5-7333 BANNITOWN BILL (16) (D) W Reed 9 10 8 ... Min V Jackson 7 463-11 (JARBO'S BOY (206) (CD) J Turner 8 10 5 ... R Supple 5 P22223 PARIAH (6) M Todrutter 9 10 4 ... B Harring 1 17-9-F EASTER OATS (16) (CD) Mss L Russel 9 10 0 ... T Reed B ... 10 declared ... T Reed B ... 10 declared ... Better Tiones Abseld, 9.0 Kilcoloun.

15-5LI3 TARTAN TRADEWINDS (12) (D) G Richards Ti Ti 12

B.30 RENTON SWAN & PARTINERS HAND1 200-1 JOCKS CROSS (18) G Richards 7 750 2m 6f 110yds
2 20383 PALACEGATE KING (18) (C) A Wilders 3 11 5 J Jandine (7)
3 2040FP MARCHANT MINS (18) (C) A Wilders 3 11 5 J Jandine (7)
4 20203 INILATHEN (23) (CD) Mrs M Faveley 8 to 13 G Lee
5 25-20 STORMY CORAL (18) (D) (BF) C Parter 8 to 1 G Lee
6 20250 DENTICULATA (16) (D) P Socioscod 10 10 S Teylor (3)
7 6323 CASH BOX (47) (CD) 7 Cer to 10 0 Mrs M McGreth (3)
8 303900 DELIGHTPOOL (57) R Neon 7 100 Mrs R McGreth (3)
8 delicated Minatum 10ct. Top hissp weights: Cash Box 8st 13th, Delighthool 7st 16
BETTING: 13-6 Jocks Cross, 3-1 Linkthen, 6-1 Cash Box, 7-1 Paleco-

Racing results BATH

BATH

200: 1. PEAK PATH [W R Switchm) 11-4;
2. Zudisco 7: 1.3. Haddin 6: 1.11 ran. 2: 1 tax Exe To Scrievines (ath) nt, 12 (M Sputs, Newmarks); Tota: 5240; 5150,

Company Review R

c 98452270 pt 752580 Quadoot 64520

Jackpot: 983,52970 Placence

NOTTINGHAM

2.15: 1, JANIOR MIJFFIN (C Lowther)
8-1; 2. Sing For Me 20-1; 3. Pleasure 14-1
16 ran. 4-1 tev Cape Hoos. 4. 2; (J Berry,
Cockerham) Total E860; 2.30; 2870; 2880
DF: 24020 CSF: 25533, tro. 25530
DF: 24020 CSF: 25533, tro. 25530
2.45: 1, RIVER BINSIGN (A McCarrhy)
12-1; 2. Gracio 8-1; 3. Petitis Danssuss 20-1;
4. Al Real 10-1 20 ran. 7-1 tay stock Hill
Denous nd; 14: All Sembourne, Nesschilet
Tean 2470; 2370; 2290; 2590; 2130 DF:
270550 CSF: 25936 Vicest: 2190009 Trio:
52550.
3.16: 1, DISPOL CLAN (J Carroll) 20-1;
2. Golden Real 5-1; 3. Risky Valentine 5-1
Brigh, 17-4 tay Smotor (Hh), hd, if Calred,
Rigon) Tobe: 64070; 2770, 210; 2330 DF:
2880, CSF: 219833
3.345: 1, RICHTINA (C Rutter) 7-4 tay, 2.
1 transylvania 6-1; 3. Vansbil 11-2-15 ran.
3/4, 714, "H1 Carroll, Wenting) Tobe: 22-50;
12-12-270, E170, DF: 2700 CSF: 2714, 7no;
2880, NF; Lady Ot Lorier.
4.15: 1, SWEET DREAMS (Pat Eddery)
2-1 tay; 2. Fearning 2-1; 3. Mari-Eta 12-1;
4. Chlo-Jo 33-1 18 ran. 3/4, 2/4, U Durkop, Anandel), Tobe: 22-70; CSF: 22-244. Threest:
25262 Time: 196550

C25262 That C15650 4.45: 1. FLYING FLIP (Dean McKe 4.45: 1. PLYING FLIP (Dean McKeown) 10:1: 2. Battors Daughter 4-1 it lay 3. One-featherdisch 17-2.9 ram. 4-1 it lay inclusion lith) 5. 3%: (B. Morgan, Burton-On-Trent). Total 12:50: 12:50. 15:50. 12:50. 15

Tricast, £29784, Tro: £26500 Placepot: 180790 Quadpot: £2440 Place 6 £54613 Place 5. £10134.

HUNTINGDON

5.18: 1. TINOTOPS (Mss S Victory) 11-4; 2. Rightseldfred 9-2; 3. Lochnagrein 6-4 fax 8 ran. 4, 11 (Ms R Victory). Tota: 5500; 5120 (180, 5180, Dual Forecast 52120, CSF. 1542 - MARTHA'S BOY (Mr S Robinson) 1-3 fer; 2. Rob Mine 4-1; 3. Emons 20-1 16 ran, 4, 12 (Mrs M Robinson). Tobre 5120: 5130, 5130, 5280 DF: 5340 CSF: 5189, Trio:

TOBO.

1. RUPERTS CHOICE (Mr S Spuborg) 5-2 fav; 2. Kally's Original 5-1; 3. Williamy Men 16-1, 12 ran. "/- 8 (C Sporborg) Total 2-20; CL20, C130, C20, DF. ESSO, CSF: 514/7. Tric: 524/0. NRS: Cotsurbal Boy, Oliver Himself. Adrian Maguire continued his

pro and has been racing a long time and the more you don't interfere with him, the better be is." One of Storm Alert's rivals, Coniton, fell four fences from home when apparently going well, ending the luck of rider Jimmy McCarthy who had won Ascot's first race, on Eau De Cologne for Chichester-based trainer Lydia Richards. Her sixyear-old put up a fine jumping display to come home five lengths ahead of the 11-4 favourite, Tompetoo. I shall keep Eau De Cologne going," Richards said. "He won over three miles at Newbury last time and we were worried about the ground here this winning form when riding Storm evening. He would prefer more spring in it."

International Chase at Ascot last

night. It was the 12-year-old's sixth success at the Berkshire

track. After weighing in, Maguire

said of Storm Alert: "Today was his

day, he really enjoyed himself and

did it well in the end. He's an old

Kelso

5.45 J J Baboo 6.15 Cuthill Hope 6.50 Durano 7.25 Naughty Future 8.00 Howayman 8.30 JOCKS CROSS (nap)

GOING: Soft (Heavy in places on chase course).

① Undulating course. Pun-in of two furfongs.

② Course is N of lown off BEAGN, ADMISSION: Cuto 210, Tattersalls

27 (CAPS & Students St, u-f6s free). CAR PARK: Free.

① LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs. M Reveley 39-141 (277%), M Ham-

– 10 declared BETTING: 1-6 J J Baboo, 10-1 Rhapaody in White, 14-1 Porter Paddy, 16-1 Just Huse, Mo's Boy, 25-1 Buddleia, Chantilly Ross, 33-1 others 6.15 RYDEN PROPERTY CONSULTANTS NOVICE CHASE (D) £5,000 2m 1f

- 10 declared -BETTINO: 11-4 Naughty Future, 4-1 Briter Times Ahead, 9-2 Kilcolgan 11-2 Genes Lad, 8-1 Parish, 10-1 Garbo's Boy, 12-1 Whileparing Steel 25-1 others 8.00 CHARLIE BROWN UNITED BORDER HUNTER CHASE (H) £2,000 3m 1f 5U2OS FOROSTOWN (5) J Barday 9 12 4 ... Mr J Alexande 5002 HOWAYMAN (12) N Anderson 8 12 4 ... Mr B Morger F-P221 EUCISE MAN (P18) F Watton 10 Ti 12 ... Mr J Wa 24-22 PIPER O'DRUMMOND (P4) (C) Miss P Rotson 11 Ti 12 . 6 5336.0 THE MOSSES (P18) Mrs V Dungai 13 7 2 _Mrs V Jackson (5) - 6 declared BETTING: evens Howayman, 5-4 Excise Man, 50-1 The Mosses mond, 20-1 Fordstown, 25-4 Excise Man, 50-1 The Mosses

RACING SERVICES 0891 261 970 h cual Sup per numerir TAS par, Serpetican St TCA-4

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hair mass as utcomes the weeks ago and measurements impartue not enconvenience has sun Alart has taken minor hondours twice on the Plat since. She was beaten 25 lengths in high-held Plaze take at Portigitant but haid earlier gone under only a neck and three parts of a length behind Jucinda and Golden Melody at Polkestone. Mark Poligiases run-ner can manage the 7th alt-round concession to these hivals, pick of whom might be Certain Surprise. Michael Madgwick's charge in only moderate but han her best race last time when a seven-length fifth to Totally Yours at Polkestone last time, Leading belt at the seth flight. 2.45 OFFHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £2,820 1 SUS4 BARONCELL (16) (CD) (The Gorders) M Wildraton 8 Ti 9 1 Lewrence 5F-16 CHEATER (SS) (The Creater Partnership) Mo I. Richards 3 T2SP2 AMGIST TWELT (16) (TO O'Drien I) to O'Drien I) to 3 P. Hidde 3 T2SP2 AMGIST TWELT (16) (TO O'Drien I) to 0'Drien I) to 13 A Balass (S) V 5 F-7223 BROOK BEE (15) (Socon Partnership) N Genebro 6 Ti 3 D. J. Leech 5 UPSP6 GREY CORDEN (15) (Eastwell Mantor Rating) H Curis 10 Ti 3 J. Leech 5 Updatered — SETTING, 7-4 August Twelffth, 3-1 Baroncelli, 7-2 Cheater, 4-1 Brook Bee, 14-1 Berbuible, 20-1 Grave Gorden

Grey Gorden

FORM GUIDE

The ground is a worry at far as Chester to concerned. Winter of an amateurs' hands-cap hundle at Pertin in September on his reapplearance, he landed the odds at Sedge-sed the following morath, both for Howard Johnson's stable. Sold for 16000gms at the Concester November Sales, he probably needed the rece after a near five-moth shoence on he first nor from Lydar Richards' stable, finishing test of five to Callera Star here last morath. Chester will be fitter this time but all his winning has been on good to firm going and this tocks best letter this time but all his winning has been on good to firm going and this locks best letter this time but all his winning has been on good to firm going and this locks best letter this time but all his winning has been on good to firm going and this locks best letter this time but all his winning has been on good to firm going and this post charge of the land of the firm and the start of the start of the locks had been a start thin the same and the start within a shocking blunder at the final fence runned his charme. The longer his will set from any word-white for his charge in the long his will set from any word-white for his ges. This leaves Brook Bee, placed in his lest three races—the most recent when a severa-and-e-half-length third to Saxon buse at Exeter with Grey Gorden almost 19 lengths admit and open to improvement at so. FORM GUIDE

NOTTINGHAM

ASCOT

5.30: 1. EAU DE COLOGNE (J.A. McCarthy) 5-1; 2. Tompeton 11-4 fay; 3. Migel's Lad 7-2 7 ran. 8.8 (Mrs. Robersis). Tota: 2640; 5240, 5200. Duel Forecast: 59.00. Computer Statight Forecast: 59.07. Trost: 26,34 Non Rumer: Go Belfatic. 6.00: 1. STORM ALERT (A Maguire) 7-4 fay; 2. Barmageera Boy 11-4; 3. Cumbrian Charlenge 2-1.5 ran. 3. 8. (O Nicholson). Rote: 5240; 515, 5120 DF 1280, CSF: 5621. Non Rumer Indian Jockey. 6.30: 1. CLEVER REMARK (C Maude) 6-1; 2. Freddie Muck; 13-2; 3. Mystic late 11-19 ran. 200-30 fay Feels Like Gold (Sel). 4. 11-4, (J Old). Tota: 5730; 5220, 5170, 5370. DF: 52260, CSF. 53804. Trosts: ESS771. Tros: 52200. 5.30: 1. EAU DE COLOGNE & A Mo-

Alert to victory in the Michael Page

Aston convinced that Sheffield can go the Full Monty

company of Mark Aston and you almost begin to believe no-hopers, then no one has scrum-half to prove the doubters wrong, he tells Dave Hadfield that Sheffield Eagles can do the told Aston - at least not in terms unthinkable on Saturday and become the unlikeliest of Challenge Cup winners.

Given the "Full Monty" connection, it was inevitable the Sheffield scrum-half and his team-mates would be obliged to get their kit off in the interests of promoting what many already regard as a non-contest. of two or three hundred people The results will be seen in various newspapers this week: most seeing them will expect the Eagles' playing limitations to be exposed equally starkly at

But the Eagles are not like some teams I have seen in the build-up to Wembley - teams which smell of defeat in advance est examples of the talent spot-

SPEND long enough in the and really only turn up to com- Saturday's rugby league Challenge Cup final may allow the Eagles plete the numbers. If they are that convince him.

"People wouldn't say that about us if they realised what we have come from," says the 30year-old Aston, who joined the club in 1986 and, apart from a brief interlude at Featherstone. has been there ever since. "I remember playing in front

at Owlerton, with characters like Billy Harris who looked after "We used to look around that empty greyhound stadium

in the pouring rain and think that perhaps we never would make a go of it in Sheffield." Aston was one of the earli-

the man who built the Eagles. of bright lights, big city, but Although he has moved to a bigger stage, as chief executive of Leeds, the long-serving play-

ers at Sheffield, like Aston and at the famously tightly-run his captain. Paul Broadbent, will Eagles. spare a thought for their old mentor as they walk out at

"He'll have a lump in his throat when he sees us go out there," he says, "He'll be out there on the pitch with us, in one sense. This club was his baby; he took it through to a teenager and then he let it run wild."

Like Hetherington, there was a time when Asion felt com-

ting flair of Gary Hetherington, at Featherstone hardly smacks Rovers were in an expansive mood at the time and promised

> "I went for the wrong reasons - for more money and to try to secure my future - but I was never happy there. People think the grass is always greener, but I've been there and

Typically, the shrewd Hetherington brought him back for a fraction of the fee that had taken him away.

When I had a chance to pelled to fly the nest. A sojourn come back, I didn't hesitate. sees his team winning it. "The way we are approaching it is that each player has an 🕻

environment and I'm lucky that enough of those individual bat-I've always had a good rapporttles, we win the match. with the spectators at Aston riches he could not get Sheffield."

With both of them, a cynic might say, because the Earles. for all the good work they have done, will still struggle to sell more than 6,000 tickets for Wembley - and few will feel, in their hearts, that their side will send them back up the M1 in high spirits.

But Aston genuinely believes that there is a way in which everyone can be proved wrong. Most players shy away from depicting a major final as a man-to-man confrontation,

Edwards, who was worshipped

look after itself." Aston's contest with the Wigan scrum-half, Tony Smith, a fellow-Castlefordian and a player

"If we look after the small

picture, the big picture will

he regards as the best in the British game in his position at the moment. "He has done remarkably well to take over from Shann

into his face and I'm going to

but that is the way in which he tell him that I'll be in his face the whole match.

"We're going to smash into them in the first 20 minutes to individual battle against his op- such an extent that we plant a posite number. If we win seed of doubt, We want them to look at us and think This lot really want this. Are we prepared to put our bodies on the line in the same way?"

Aston's kicking game will That puts the emphasis on also be crucial, so much of Steffield's plan revolving arond it.

"There are a lot of wrong places to kick. You don't want to give Jason Robinson the ball, because he will hurt you.

"Wigan are probably the best-balanced side in the world. Robinson is the best winger. Gary Connolly the best centre, "But I'm going to get right and Kris Radlinski is as good as any full-back in this country.



"But we are going to go out there with such aggression. We are going to go into every tackle wanting to hurt them.

"A lot of people are writing us of, but Wigan know we can beat them - like we did at our place last season. And for someone like me, this match means everything. Being realistic, I might never get another chance, so this day has to be the day."

Benson and Hedges Cup: Durham take advantage as Butcher bolsters Surrey and Worcestershire struggle

Too many errors by Derbyshire

By Mike Carey a: D∹to

Durham 185-6 Derbyshire 179-6 Durham won by six runs

NOTHING went quite according to plan here yesterday, which is never really a surprise at this stage of the season. The last of the day's errors, the running out of Derbyshire's Vince Clarke, removed their slight hopes of vie- ably run out. tory and Durham got home by six runs, a triumph which will do them the power of good.

It was not as exciting as it may sound. The game was reduced overnight rain had soaked part of the square, necessitating the use of matting to cover all pitches, and David Boon's decision in these conditions.

one of those slow, two-paced af- by no mean physical power. fairs on which timing is not gave his side something to destraightforward and Clarke's sheer physical strength looked owed much to one batsman af- By David Liewellyn capable of seeing his side home after a series of early mishaps. after making a start.

Durham probably bowled Wasim Akram, the former Surrey 267-8; Hampshire 219 straighter in the all-important. Pakistan captain, vesterday early phase of the innings than urged England's selectors to Derbyshire had managed: cer- build for the future when they AT LEAST it was not the hutainly they got on top after a name Michael Atherton's sucmisunderstanding between Tim cessor as captain. "I don't think Tweats and Kim Barnett had re- they should be looking to apsulted in both batsmen finishing at the same end.

Tweats had to go. Barnett was subdued for a while, but,

round to a point where 45 were needed from five overs, whereupon Barnett missed a straight full toss from Melvyn Betts as he tried to run it to third man.

Clarke shouldered the burden of keeping things moving but, with 17 required from two overs, he paid the price for hesitating over a second run from Phil DeFreitas' stroke to square-leg and, after several changes of mind, was comfort-

After that, Betts and John Wood howled very straight, aiming for the block hole as often as possible, so there was never any likelihood of a late to a 3n-over affair after heavy miracle, enabling Durham to complete a win that owed much to Paul Collingwood's unbeaten 30 from 18 balls.

The admirable Collingwood to but first suggested he was hap- arrived after his side had also py to get runs safely on the board missed their way in mid-innings. His crucial piece of con-In the event, the pitch was trolled aggression, again helped fend after a slumn that had ter another contriving to get out

> point a stop-gap captain," Wasim, who will lead Lancashire in today's Benson and Hedges Cup tie with Warwickshire at



Bailing out: Alec Stewart is clean bowled by Dimitri Mascarenhas in yesterday's Benson & Hedges tie at Southampton

Mascarenhas makes life hard for Hollioake

at Southampton

Surrey win by 48 runs

miliating margin (165 runs) of last year's encounter in this competition, when Hampshire failed to get into three figures. but yesterday Surrey's strength still proved too much for Robin Smith and his trusty band.

of the Ancient and Modern -Peter Hartley, 38, and Dimitri Mascarenhas, 20. This combo saw the home team singing from the same hymn sheet for a while, but it was their oppo-

nents who called the tune. Hartley, who has come south after 13 seasons with Yorkshire, picked up 3 for 32, and the London-born. Australia-raised Mascarenhas, of Sri Lankan parentage, claimed four good wickets. He flared briefly with

innings, like so many others in the Hampshire line-up, was ineffectual and short-lived. Surrey's captain Adam Hol-

lioake used his bowlers cannily, restricting the Hampshire batsmen from the start and White (47), who put on 78 for the third wicket, provided the although Adrian Aymes and Simon Renshaw had a last-wicket stand of 42. White should

second spell saw Ben Hollioake take a fine running catch coming round from mid-wicket to the square-leg boundary.

Bicknell did a deal of damage to the Hampshire innings. only Smith (45) and Giles but his fine return of 4 for 38 was outdone by Mascarenhas. In the youngster's opening over home fans with much to cheer, his seamers accounted for Surrey's opening pair. Alistair Brown's breezy 43, which included eight cracking bound-

the start of Martin Bicknell's Stewart, playing his first game for the county since returning from the Caribbean, was done by one which nipped back. But the pair had put on 69 for the first wicket.

Mascarenhas accounted for Ben Hollioake shortly after to finish with 4 for 28. Unfortunately for Hampshire, that dismissal brought the Gold award winner Mark Butcher in. The England left-hander's 67 off 97 balls, during which he added 95 for the fourth wicket with Graham Thorpe (48), saw Sur-

Equality, said: "If clubs reach

have reached his half century, aries and the odd alarm, ended While the bowling lacked with Clarke punching the ball Old Trafford, said. "They should the bat as well, one straight shot away confidently on both sides be looking towards Nasser Husbut a too casual flick at what apbite there was encouragement off Ian Salisbury sailing into with a straightforward catch at Northlands Road. But his peared a leg-side half volley at mid-on. Four balls later Alec rev clear of their bit of trouble. of the wicket, they pulled things sain or Mark Ramprakash." from Hampshire's own version Hamilton outshines Yorkshire luminaries to bring cheer to Byas

at Headingley

Worcestershire (28) Yorkshire 119-5 Yarkshire win by 5 wickets

YORKSHIRE maintained a buoyant start to the new season. by launching their Benson and Hedges Cup campaign with a side have a healthy 14-point strong statement of intent, the lead, yesterday's performance

119 for 5 in 32.3 overs to a fivewicket victory over Worcesterseveral downnours.

David Byas is wary of false dawns but on the back of two wins in the Britannic Assurance Champiouship, in which his

Yorkshire v Worcestershire

HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire best Worces tershire by 5 wids on Duckworth-Lewis method.

complexities of the Duckworth- will allow Yorkshire's captain to Lewis method translating their reflect with satisfaction on the story so far.

Darren Lehmann, with 31, shire in a match subjected to and Craig White, who scored 27. provided essential momentum and Bradley Parker's streaky bottom-edged four supplied the winning runs - with 15 balls to spare - but the Gold Award went without argument to Gavin Hamilton, the young

Scottish-born seamer whose 4 to 64 for 8 before Newport's engretted his decision to bat first. for 33 included a run of three wickets in four deliveries.

Worcestershire's total was their smallest for a completed innings against Yorkshire in 11 B&H meetings and would have been embarrassing without the late recovery by David

Leatherdale and Phil Newport. Hamilton's extraordinary performance sparked a collapse

trance but the total had doubled by the time Yorkshire complet- caught in an ambitious attempt ed the job. The top-scorer, to pull Chris Silverwood. Newport's 42-ball stay yielded an unbeaten 28 after his partnership with Leatherdale, who scored 25, added 45 in 10 overs. By contrast, Worcestershire's ble to run two for a push behind

top order failed miserably as Yorkshire's strong seam attack ensured that Tom Moody re-

After Vikram Solanki had been Graeme Hick edged Darren Gough low to slip, where Byas took the first of his three catches. Then Philip Weston's scramsquare off Silverwood was beat-

en by Lehmann's accurate throw.

Gavin Haynes fell to a low catch at the wicket off Paul Hutchison and then Hamilton began a run of four wickets in 10 balls when he bowled Moody. In his next over, the 23-year-old delivered three examples of how to exploit a seaming pitch by having Stuart Lampitt. Steven Rhodes and then Richard Illingworth caught After the first and longest off the outside edge.

out into these communities they can find new sources of players and spectators,"

Venus Williams and Martina

Hingis arriving. And this year

there is no certainty that Mon-

ica Seles or Steffi Graf will

gument that women's matches

tend to be more attractive on

the fast grass courts than the

men's power game by revealing

that a survey during last year

Wimbledon counters the ar-

Cricket scoreboard

Benson and Hedges Cup Derbyshire v Durham

DERBY: Durham beat Dorbyshire by

**O C Boon : Barnett D Carre
N J Speak t Harns b Clarke

**M P Speight c Harns b Clarke
**P D Collingwood not out
**J Boong not out
**J Boong not out
**Total (for 6. 36 overs)

Total (for 6. 36 overs) Feil: 1-25, 2-62, 3-122, 4-128, 5-140, 6-182.

Did not bat: M M Betts J Wood, S J Harmi-Bowling: DeFreitas 6-0-25-1; Cork 8-0-42-1, Harris 7-0-32-2; Aldred 7-0-20-0; Clarks 7-0-38-2; Barnett 1-0-7-0. DERBYSHIRE

Fall: 1-46, 2-47, 3-58, 4-76, 5-141, 6-168. Did not bat 14 M Kilkken, P Aldred, A J Har-

Fall: 1-17, 2-23, 3-32, 4-51, 5-58, 6-62, 7-64, Bowling: Säverwood 8-2-16-1; Gough 8-1-32-2, Hamiton 8-0-33-4; Hutchson 45-2-9-2; White 7-1-26-0. VORKSHIRE DERBYSHIRE
DIG Corr of Sperght 5 Berts
A Singlins of Morris 5 Wood
T A Tweats run out
K J Barnett 5 Berts
S D Stubbings 5 Foster
V P Clarke run out
P A J Derfrenas not out
D Stubbings for out YOHKSHIKE
A McGraft Bay b Moody
M P Vaughen c Solarily b Haynes
*D Byas Bw b Haynes
D S Lehmann c Illingworth b Moody
C White c Solarily b Lampitt 8 Parker not out tR J Blakev not out -Fall: 1-5, 2-17, 3-57, 4-90, 5-98. Did not bat: D Gough, C E W Sive G M Hamilton, P M Hutchlson. Bowling: Newport 7-1-15-0: Haynes 6-1-20-2: Moody 7-3-24-2: Lempitt 6-0-30-1. Shen-yar 2-0-18-0: Leatherdale 4-3-0-13-0 V A Holder and FI A White. res: D J Constant and J H Hampshire

Hampshire v Surrey SOUTHAMPTON: Surrey best Has by 48 runs. Hampshire won jos:

A D Brown c Smith b Mascarenhas †A J Stawart b Mascarenhae B C Holioaka c Aymes b Hardey G P Thorpe c Aymes b Renshaw48 M A Butcher c Aymes b Hartley67 "A J Holloake c McLean b Mascarenhas, 16 (D K Salisbury not out Total (for 8, 50 overs) ..

Fall: 1-69, 2-70, 3-86, 4-181, 5-212, 6-220, 7-Did not bat: J E Benjamen, Bowling: Renshaw 10-0-69-1 McLean 10-0-61-0: Hardey 10-0-32-3, Mascarechas 10-0-28-4: Udal 10-0-60-0

J S Laney c & b Bicknell A D Magicarenhas b Salisbury S Kendall low b Salisbury 5 S J Renshaw b 6 C Hollicake

Extras (fb9 w3 rb3) 21

Fall: 1-30, 2-38, 3-116, 4-137, 5-143, 6-149, Bowling: Bicknell 10-1-38-4; Benjamin 7-0-26-0; B C Hollioake 94-0-56-2; Butcher 5-0-19-0; A J Hollioake 7-0-39-1; Salisbury 10-1-32-3.

Somerset v Kent

Umptres: A A Jones and M J Kitchen.

Other matches ONE-DAY MATCH: The Parks, Ox-SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of three): Knowle & Dorridge: War-wickstine 159 for 4 (M J Powel 71no) v Hampshire.

AON TROPHY (One day match): Set-fron Walden: Essex 194-8 (J Powell 41)v Kent 164 (J Hockley 62). Easex won by

Starting today

11.0 start unless stated BENSON & HEDGES CUP (One-day): Cardiff: Glamorgan v Essex. Old Traf-tord: Lancashire v Warwickshire. Lord's: Middlesex v Sussex, Luton: Minor Coun SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of three): Saftron Walden: Essex v Kent. Oxted: Surrey v Notunghamshire. East-

money amounted to £26,150, the men play matches over the Tennis

30th anniversary of open tennis by offering record prize money of £7.2m for this year's championships (which run from 22 June to 5 July), an increase of 4.7 per cent on last year.

The men's singles title, currently held by Pete Sampras, will be worth £435,000 (a rise of £20,000), and the women's singles championship, due to be defended by Martina Hingis, £391,500 (£18,000 more).

While the face of the All in the professional era England Club has changed during the three decades since amateurs and professionals were first allowed to play together, it remains set against equal pay for women.

the Australian Rod Laver received £2,000 for the men's singles title and £750 went to the American Billie Jean King, the women's singles champion and a staunch campaigner for the women's movement.

nis Association continues to press for pay parity, Wimbledon's resistance remains firm. the men's game and the fact that

Grass and Cash: How Wimbledon's prize money has grown

Year	1968	1978	1988	1998
Total	£26,150	5279,023	\$2.6m-	£7.2m
Men	£2,000	000,613	2165,000	£435000
Winner	Rod Laver	Bjorn Borg	Stefan Edberg	
Women	£750	£17,100	£148,500	£391,500
Winner	Billio Jean King	Martina Navratilova	डाक्षा दार्ख	

cleared to play By Dave Hadfield WAISALE SOVATABUA has

Fijian

been cleared to play for the Sheffield Eagles at Wembley thanks in part to the support of the player he laid out with a high tackle on Sunday. Sovatabua was sent off at

Huddersfield for flooring the home side's winger, Ben Barton. But a letter from Barton to the disciplinary committee said that the Fijian full-back had been off balance and had connected with an instinctive tackle. The committee ruled that sending off was sufficient pun-

islument, freeing Sovatabua to turn out in the Silk Cut Chailenge Cup final alongside his team-mate, Dale Laughton, who was told on Monday that he had no case to answer over a challenge in the same match. A relieved Eagles coach, John Kear, has named a 20-man squad, adding Gareth Stephens, Marcus Vassilakopoulos. Lynton Stott and Bright Sodje to the 16 who, with the cup-tied Steve Molloy, played at Hudders-

If Sodje makes the final squad of 17, it could set up a double celebration with his brother, the footballer Effic Sodje, whose Macclesfield side

clinched promotion last week. There were no surprises in the Wigan team named by their coach, John Monie, yesterday. The players who got us to Wembley will be going to Wembley," said Monie, announcing a line-up in which Tony Mestrov and Steve Holgate start at prop with Neil Cowie and Terry O'Connor on the bench alongside 20-year-old Lee Gilmour.

"I wrote the names down, but the players have picked themselves. In my opinion we are starting in the front row with the two players in the best form," said Monie.

The Rugby League has

adopted à 13-point action plan to combat racism - the first sport to do so in this country. Among the commitments that clubs are being asked to enter into are a code of conduct for players - topical after the suspension of Bramley's Anthony Gibbons for racial abuse last week - and positive weighting of development policies to encourage more players and spectators from ethnic minorities. Ray Singh, commissioner of the Campaign for Racial

Still no parity as Wimbledon pays more

By John Roberts

WIMBLEDON will mark the

In 1968, when the total prize

"Why do people pay more in boxing for a heavyweight title fight than for a lightweight

best of five sets and the women

over the best of three.

one?" asked John Curry, the Wimbledon chairman, after Although the Women's Ten- yesterday's prize money announcement. "We look at the situation every year, but we believe we are being fair. There The reasoning is based on the is a greater demand for men's greater popularity and depth of tennis and less depth in the men's tennis. The survey also women's game, even today with

championship showed that 70 per cent of spectators preferred showed that 60 per cent of the visitors to Wimbledon were ... Women.

Incidentally, first-round losers in the women's singles a the Wimbledon qualifying even at Rochampton will be pai £805 (Billie Jean eat your hear out) while the men who fall the first round there will recei-£1,035 - £965 short of Lave 1968 first prize.

Johns to

be Scots see Yewey to the uture

Simon Buckland

IE Scottish Sports Council terday delivered a timely arrance that it knows what is pured to produce another neration of sporting heroes. The launch of a new national ategy, called Sport 21, arrives the wake of the assertion by chard Gough, the Rangers peain, that he fears for the delopment of Scotland's future ospects. Gough expressed rubis that the right system was place to deliver sporting exllence and suggested Scandi-

The Ibrox skipper also beoaned the way in which sociv offers children too many isure options away from sport nd blamed a lack of focus nong sport's administrators.

wia should be used as a model

After more than two years of onsultation, moves were instiited at Hampden Park yesrday to ensure that the kind f system Gough feels is lackig can be put into motion.

sals

Among the plans is a Naonal Physical Activity Taskorce to guarantee the provision f sport in schools and the cretion of a Scottish Institute of port within a year to co-ordi- a challenge but also makes for ate and enforce reform.

The only drawback for the moitious scheme is funding. he chairman of the Scottish ports Council. Graeme Simners, admitted that there was inlikely to be a rise in existing esources. However, he remains confident that with better tarjeting of the estimated £200m ears progress can be made towards a more sporting nation.

What we have is a blend of aspiration and reality. We can achieve everything without the Scottish game has recognised need for new substantial in- that and next year it will be comvestment as long as present pulsory in the new Premiership funding levels are maintained. that people have a proper youth

"The cynics might say we have heard all this before and and point to the fact our aim in life for the past 25 years of this Touncil has been the same. But I think we have reached a new progress as we now have the resources in every sense to achieve our vision."

"Too often our political culaure is one of being reactive, whereas this is a long-term view of where we want to go," he said. Among those at the unveil-

ing was the Great Britain hockey international Rhona Simpson, who as a PE teacher in Glasgow is well placed to respond to Gough's suggestion that youngsters now have less interest in sport.

"I think the enthusiasm is still there - when the children are younger they are still keen to get involved," she said. "But if you don't catch them young if can be more difficult. You have to get into them and start coaching them at the right age.

With the right support the talent is still there and I think today showed everyone is positive about funding, because ultimately a lot of it comes down to that. The Lottery has made a big difference and while I can see there might be concerns about over reliance on that source of funding, the hope is it can spark further investment as success is achieved.

"Expectations of success are high in Scotland but I don't feel any extra pressure. Being a small nation makes it more of greater pride. "In a few weeks' time Scot-

land compete in the women's hockey World Cup for the first time and that is something we have worked hard for on and off the field. Hopefully for future players it will be easier." Tony Higgins, the secretary

of the Scottish Professional ivailable over the next five Footballers' Association, also senses Gough's pessimism may be outdated. "I think what Sport 21 aims to maximise Richard Gough has said is a perscotland's sporting potential ception," he said. "There is no and establish us as a world-class doubt we don't have the same porting nation," Simmers said. number of quality young players comi monat

"But in fairness now the development system.

We have not invested ask what the difference will be enough money in the last 15 to 20 years and if you look at the example of the Scandinavian countries, that is what we must follow. But the problem is belevel and con now make great ing addressed by the SFA, who are starting a youth coach license which is an important ability. That coach is the most Sam Galbraith, the Scottish important to any club because Sports Minister, offered his back- he is nurturing the future of that ing, albeit more vocal than fi- club - it is important we raise nancial to the ideals of Sport 21. the status of that section."



Game on: Elliott Dempsey (left, Oxford United) and Dominic Brindley (Stoke City) twist and turn in London yesterday Photograph: Robert Hallam

Flick of the wrist sends Southampton to World Cup

THEY were all trying their best - Table manners were razor sharp as eight youngsters fought for to hide it, but the tension was etched in their faces. Tickets to a ticket to France yesterday. Adam Szreter watched the action the World Cup quarter-final in Lyon were at stake, and while the rest of the country was furiously dialling a hot line in France, eight young boys twiddled with the hopes of their tantalised parents on two table-football

tops at a trendy West End café yesterday. It was none other than the final of the Smoby Monneret Table Football Championship, a worthy venture organised by Football in The Community and aimed at seven-to-11 year olds throughout the country. The thousands who entered

the tournament in October had

been whittled down to just

eight and for the lucky winner,

and his lucky parents, an all ex-

penses paid trip to France was

awaiting. Not to mention, of course, an exhibition match against David Beckham. The 10-year-old Elliot

Dempsey, representing Oxford United, was most people's favourite before the action began at Football Football. In his regional final he had beaten the previously unbeatable Leicester City 10-0, while the other seven finalists had er led much closer calls.

In his first match Matthew Walker of Brighton issued young Elliot with a warning of what lay in store by going one up inside five seconds. Elliot, Beckham of his day and now

backed by a posse of Dempsters Football in the Community ofdown from Oxford for the day, fought back and punched the air as he took a 2-1 lead.

It was a seesaw affair, but our man pulled through 10-8. Over on the other table the voungest competitor, nine-yearold Patrick Walker of Sheffield United, was struggling against Scarborough in the shape of Martin Harwood, "He doesn't use his goalkeeper," said Patrick's dad as Scarborough

"Watch the table," shouted his

romped to a 10-4 win. Tony Currie, the David

ficer at Sheffield United, hung his head in mock despair. After the second group of

round-robin matches the finalists were already clear. Southampton's Martin Hilev and Dominic Brindley of Stoke had won both of their games by a distance, and while young Elliot, a 10-9 loser in his second game, beat Stoke 10-5 in his last match it wasn't quite enough.

The final was played under the watchful gaze of Beckham. It was a close affair with both sides adopting identical 2-5-3 formations, and as a consequence the game became el game.

Southampton took a 2-0 lead. and after an eternity Stoke pulled one back. The honour of the Potteries remained in tact for a while, but at 3-2 the Saints' centre-forward unleashed an unstoppable shot from pointblank range, and somehow you knew the contest was over.

bogged down in midfield.

Southampton ran out 10-3 winners and proceeded to demolish the boy Beckham in the exhibition match that followed. Most of the disappointed parents had recovered their poise by the time the presentations were made, but Stoke City's dad sat forlornly in the background, taking good care of the runner's-up prize but not quite able

to put Lyon out of his mind. Table football can be a cru-

lead the Irish in S Africa Rugby Union

IRELAND will tackle their demanding seven-match summer tour of South Africa without three of their leading players. The Harlequins hooker Keith Wood, Leicester No 8 Eric Miller and the London Irish lock Jeremy Davidson will all be left behind after pleading injury or exhaustion to the coach, Warren Gatland.

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"Davidson has been injured all season anyway, and we were aware that the others were physically and mentally exhausted." said the New Zealander.

"We want to take a squad away who are fit and fully focused, with players who are jumping out of their skins to go on tour. We decided that what was best for the players was to leave them behind and that decision was best for the team as well."

Wood is replaced as captain by the Saracens lock Paddy Johns and Gatland believes he will have no trouble filling the role. "He has honesty, great experience and he's very well respected by his players," said the coach.

Gatland promised to try and ease the 16 English-based players in the 34-man squad through the seven-match tour in May and June.

There are seven uncapped players in the party – scrum-half Derek Hegarty, back-row forwards David Wallace. Dion O'Cuinneagain and Trevor Brennan, the hooker Bernard Jackman and props John Hayes and Justin Fitzpatrick.

The Swansca forward Stuart Davies is out of Wales' tour to South Africa this summer with a serious neck injury. The No 8 has been told he will need an operation to remedy the problem or he could be forced to retire.

Newport are set to take action after their scrum-half, Nicky Lloyd, suffered a serious eve injury during last Saturday's Swalec Cup semi-final against Ebbw Vale.

Lloyd, who was detained overnight in hospital underwent minor surgery for a torn tear duct and had 10 stitches inseried in inree separate areas around his eye.

around his eve.

IRELAND SQUAD ISOUR Arnos tour, May and Jurien, Faith-backs: C O'Sheo (London Irsh), C Clarke (Feranue Colege); wings: D Hickie (St Mary's Colege); R Wallace (Sarazons, J Topping Gastmena, centres: R Henderson (Wasps) M McCall (London Irsh), K Maggs (Bristol), J Bell (Northampton), K Keane (Garryowen); stand-offs: E Elwood (Galwegans) D Humphreys (London Irsh); scrum-halls: C McGumess (St Mary's Colege), B O'Mearo (Con. Constitution), D Hegarry (Feranue College), props: R Cornigan (Grevstones) J Flizpatrick (London Irsh); P Wallace (Sarazons). P Clohessy (Young Munster), J Hayes (Shamnon), hookers: R Nesdale (Nexos-te), A Clarke (Northampton) B Jackman (Contar); lockers P Johns (Sarazons 201). M Galway (Shannon), D O'Cumneegain (Sale) V Costello (St Mary's), A Foley (Shannon), D Wallace (Garryowen) Manager: D Lennan; coach: W Gatland, assistant Coach: P Jansher.

coach: P Dansiner.

ITINERAPY: 30 May: v Bosand, Vielington, 3 June
v South West Detroi, George; 6 v Missam Province
Cape Town, 8 v Grupaland West, Kimbarey, 13 June
v South Alarca, Bloomfording, 16 v Nath West, Prochelstroom, 20 v South Alarca, Preting.

Wenger determined to keep his cool

Football

By Bill Pierce

ARSENE WENGER might be on the brink of becoming the first foreign coach to win the Premiership but, with the title almost within Arsenal's grasp, he knows there is still more pressure to overcome.

Home victories against Derby County tonight and Everton on Sunday for a team which has already cruised to eight League wins in a row and been beaten just once in their last 27 matches, will leave champions Man-

chester United handing over of success at Highbury that

Even the United manager, Alex Ferguson, admits he is convinced that only a freak collapse can now stop Arsenal winning their first title since 1991, despite his side staying in contention with Monday night's 3-0 win at Crystal Palace.

However, Wenger is acutely aware of the weight of expectancy on his shoulders. He said: "You can never escape the history of a club like this. At some clubs success is accidental sometimes, but at Arsenal it is compulsory. There is a history the players are, too. It is always

makes you feel you must always work very hard to achieve more.

"It is a pressure, of course, because I know I cannot go to work every day and say my target is to finish 10th to 15th in the table. People would laugh at me. "But whatever happens now

I know the team has had a very good season. What has happened is done and we can already be pleased with the quality of our performances.

"We are in the last 100 yards of the title race and I'm positive, concentrated and relaxed. I know

Tennis

difficult to finish something off. but we all know it is in our hands now and we do not have to look around for other situations that will help or hinder us.

"I am not nervous in any way because the mood in the dressing-room is very good and we know we just have to continue the way we have been doing things and then it is done.

"But the first thing you learn every year is that the very next game is always the most important. The thing right in front of you is always the biggest. And it is my job still to keep everything calm and relaxed.

specifically one that comes from a different country. I feel that football is my nationality really. "For me there are many very good English managers

"It is always difficult to know

how people see you, being a for-

eigner, but I just feel more a

manager who loves football than

here. The situation for every club is very different but I don't think that just because a foreign manager would win the title every other club will say they must have one.

"I just concentrate on my job and try to find the best way to fight to the top of the League."

Pickering's rapid rise gains momentum

Boxing

ESHAM PICKERING yesterday vowed to equal a 10-yearold British record and become the latest featherweight out of Brendan Ingle's stable to hit the

Pickering faces Doncaster's Jon Jo Irwin for the vacant British featherweight title at Sheffield's Hillsborough Leisure Centre on Saturday 9

Victory for the 21-year-old in what will be his 12th professional bout would see him emulate Paul Hodkinson's record for capturing the crown in the shortest number of contests.

Pickering, who made his de- enced campaigner. Irwin is a but just over 19 months ago, former Irish, Penta-Continenwould beat Pat Cowdell's mark tal. WBO intercontinental. of 13 fights and that of Barry Commonwealth and British McGuigan, who managed it in

It would also see him contique in the footsteps of Ingle's greatest current talent. Naseem Hamed, who recently defended his WBO featherweight title for the 10th successive time.

Hamed has already tipped Newark-based Pickering for the top after sparring with him on several occasions. A win over Irwin could put him on the road to greater success.

Pickering is confident of success against his opponent next month, who is an experi-

as he is suffering from a viral infection.

champion.

beaten and I'm going to win." The fight now takes centre stage as Ryan Rhodes has pulled out of his bout with Lorant Szabo for the WBO intercontinental middleweight title

"I know that I haven't had

too many fights, but I'm ready."

Pickering said. "I've been stay-

ing in Sheffield for two years

now, going home at the week-

end and just living for boxing.

sparred with everyone. I'm un-

Twe sparted with Naz,

TODAY'S NUMBER

15

The age of the referee who has reported Steve McMahon to the FA, claiming the Swindon manager shouted at him tollowing an under-14 match, in which his son, Stephen, played on the losing side. McMahon was unhappy about the rejeree's age, although, as a class three referee, he is allowed to take charge of any match between children up to his own age.

Sporting Digest

Faldo hits back at the critics who claim his career is over

Golf

NICK FALDO admitted yeslerday that he is going through a "low" in his career but hit back at critics who wrote him off after he carded the highest PGA tour. He revealed be could be suf-

ficing from "analysis paralysis" because he was worrying too much, but added there was no reason he could not rediscover the form that has won him six Faldo, speaking at a-news

Omega tour's mangural Macau Open, said he had been written off many times before but could still be a major torce.

"In 1991 a reporter was sent tra Davies, Alison Nicholas. to the frish Open to write a sto- Kathryn Marshall and Joanne ry saying I was finished - un- Modey.

Football results

83 in the MCI Heritage Classic. "It's true I've probably been score of his career on the US thinking about things a little too much, and maybe the best advice for my game at the moment

he said.

self down a little and not found enough time to switch off." Sweden's Helen Alfredsson is to defend the McDonald's conference for the Asian PGA WPGA Championship in Europe at Glencagles in August. Alfredsson, a four-time Solheim Cop player, will be joined by her former team-mates Lau-

fortunately for him I went on to

win the tournament," he said.

first time since his 12-over par

is to spend more time fishing."

"Maybe I have bogged my-

Faldo will be playing for the

MORANT'S LATE RESERTS: FA Carling Prevalenting: Crystal Palace D Manchester Lite 3, 68% Nauronal Constantance: Challentinan & Rethming D. Stevenings I Leek 1. Ryman Langue Third Division: Epson & Sevel 2 Institute 3, Minchant 4, Spennymoot C, Gameloring Alfricham 4, Spennymoot C, Gameloring Thristy 1, Fauron 6, Orthern Martanas Langue Division: Alleinchart. 4. Spennymoor C. Sanetorickyh Immit y I Purcent G. Dr. Martens Langue France Division: Creinstord: Hinney O. Midsand Division: Creinstord: Hinney O. Midsand Division: Creinstord: Hinney C. Midsand Division: Racing Wariness C. Resional Score Dr. Sanetoricky England: Spending Martiness C. Midsand Division: First Division: Billingiam Synthoma C. Tim Naymands B. Billingiam Synthoma Dr. Tim Langue Cree Division: Synthological Langue Complete Kolegowa I. Billingiam Complete Division: England: Spending Division: England Rent Langue Francisco: England School Division: England Chapter Division: England Chapter Division: England Chapter Division: Division: England Chapter Division: England Chap

ties East Liague Premier Division: Haiiam 1 Arnold I Heartink Express Mildlend
Allidence Kingla Norton 1 Pershora I. Avon
Insurance Combination First Division:
Porsmouth's Queen's Perk Ranges, 1; Swrindon 2 Luton 4; Cherton 2 Milwall 0; West
Ham 2 Assensia 2-Portina Laque Premier
Division: Asson Villa 1 Leota 0; Derby 0 Preson 3; Evecton 0 Shiefield Wantestay 0 (at Widnes): First Division: Port Vale 1 Briton
O; Sunderland 2 West Brommetch 2 (at Durham City); Wolnes 1 Leotaser 2. Second Division: Cartesis 1 Stratifield Unit 2; Rother-ham 1 Backspool 2; Postponed: Burnley v York League of Walser; Prayader Town 2 Bangor City 1 Selfond Wish League Pre-mier Division Play-off first leg: Bangor 0 Omagn 6 Spanish League: Real Scodedad
1 Deportivo Le Coruna 1 Portuguese League Academica Combra 1 Sporting Li-bon 1 Bajor Leagues Seat Washington DC Uni 1 Columbia Cree 1 (Washington son strochool 3-2).

State DAM

Asterican League: Boston 6 Detro it 5;
Anethican 3 Bahmore 1; Dakland 7 Tampa Bay
& NY Yankaes 1 Toorsto & Chicago White Sox.
10 Cevetand 3: Texas, 9 Minnesota 4 Postponed: Kansas City y Seattle.
NATIONAL League: Houston 4 NY Mets 3;
Cincinned 3 Philadelphia 1; SI Louis 7 Montreal 0; Plonida 5 Colorado 4; 19 Intrings); Atlanta 6 Antoona 5; Nimus 4 (19 Intrings); Atlanta 6 Antoona 6 (19 Intrings); Atlanta 6 (19 Intrings); Basketball "

Tim Duncan, of the San Antonio Spurs, has been named the NBA Rookie of the Year receiving 113 of a possible 116 votes.

Cricket The former Indian Test player, Ra-makant Desai, who resigned last month as chalmian of the regional cricket selection committee on health reasons, died late on Monday of heart feiture. He was 59.

Cycling Cycling
GiRO DEL THENTINO Second stage
GiRO DEL THENTINO Second stage
(178.5km, Marano to Tione, Iti; 1 P
Sarodolf (III Air Somir risec; 2 D Frigo (II)
+22sec; 3 F Casagrande (II); 4 M Partiani
(II) both same time; 5 W Bell III) +22: 8 D
Clavero (Sp); 7 A Sheler (Kazaki; 8 P Toniov
(Rus) all st; 8 E Zeins (II), + trim 25sec; 10
G Guerni (II) +2 N Overalt I Savoldell 9tr
Imm 57sec; 2 Frigo +24sec; 3 Casagrande
+20; 4 Partiani +27; 5 Sheler +33; 6
Cavero; 7 Bell; 8 Tonkov all elt; 9 Zeins
+139; 10 Guerni +218.
LEADING WORLD RANKONGS; 1 L Jakobert
Fr) 229ADDON; 2 M Bertoli (II) 179800; 3
A Tehrall (Bell) 158000; 4 J Ulrich (Ger)
15800; 5 P Toniov (Ruessa) 144800.

Football Football
Shaun Taylor, the Bristol City captain, will be out of action until at least Civitations after rupturing a cruciate ligament. The 35-year-old defender suffered the injury against Watford on Easter Monday but the full extent of the damage has only just been diagnosed.

Stoke City's First Division relegation decider with Manchester City on Sunday with be televised live on Sky Sports.

Huddersfield Town yesterday announced the largest sponsorship in the

Huddersfield Town yesterday announced the largest sponsorship in the
First Division alubit history by extending
their current egreement with Penesonicfor an additional three years, up to the
end of the 2000-2001 season. It is
worth more than £350,000.
SUBFENSIONS: FA Curring Premiership:
Sending Office R Vege (Interham) one
maint (nom 2 May): O Solskiper (Manchester Unit) three maches (hom 2 May).
Nationalde Football Laeguer R Neyfor (Inpredict three matches (hom 4 May): A
Matrille (Sunderland) three matches (from
5 May).

Ice hockey
The Slovak Facilisation has suspended two players after they turned down offers to play for their country. The Federation said Visatimil Plavucha and Jural Kledrowce had been suspended indefinitely after claiming to be too tired to play in the World Championships, which begin on Friday in Switzerland.

With FIRST ROUND PLAY-OFFS (best-of-seven matiches): Eastern Conference quarter-finals: Montreal 3 Pritsburgh 1 (Montreal lead series 2-1); Buffalo (Prissburgh 1) (Montreal lead series 2-1); Widtha (Prissburgh 1) (Montreal lead series 2-1); Western Conference quarter-final: St Lous 4 Los Angeles 3 (St Louis lead series 3-0).

Chris While, who has been a touch judge at four international matches, is to referree the Tetery's Bitter Cup final between Saracens and Wasps at Twickenham on Saturday 9 May. Snooker

Rugby Union

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Sheffleld) Quarter-final: R O'Sullvan (Eng.) leads J White (Eng.) 7-1 (Match resumes 2.30pm to-Swimming

Michael Klim, the world record hold-er, was besten for the second day run-ning when he lost to Geoff Huegill in the 100 metres butterfly at Australia' Commonwealth Games trials in Me commonweath Garles alias at his world champion, was 0.31 sec behind Huegit, touching in 53.31. He set the world record at 52.15 six months ago. Kim was beaten by 15-year-old lan Thorpe in Monday's 200m freestyle final.

pe in Monday's 200m freestyle final.

Sailing
WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE
(Baltimore, Md) Revised positions in the
seventh leg (after protest by Sweden's EF
Schuchton legalist. America's Toshbin
was uphality: 1 Brundsunery (Nath) R Honer 20th 55mm 35sec; 2 Sweden Match (Swe)
(Swe) P Cayand 21:20:54; 4 Innovator
Neasner (Nor) K Fostad 21:56:35; 5 SK Cut
(38) L Smith 22:02:07; 8 Merit Cup (Monaco) Q Debon 22:21:44; 7 Chesse Racing
(US) G Collins 22:30:53; 8 EF Education
(Swe) C Guillou 22:30:54; 9 Toshbia (US) D
Conner 22:30:43, flashbia trished seventh
but was demoted to match, Overalli positions; 1 EF Language 889; 2 Sweden
Match 555; 3 Merit Cup 527; 4 Innovator
Number 519; 6 Chesse Racing 504; 6 SA
Cut 459; 7 Toshbia 363; 6 Srunishunergy 353;
9 EF Education 178.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (End hover, Neth) Women's team Inst: Ger

AT&T MEN'S CHALLENGE (Alberta, Geor-gia) Singles, first round: J-M Gambil gia) Singles, first round: J-M Gambil (US) bt M Zabeles (Arg) 0-87-67-5; W Back (Zm) bt J Palmer (US) 4-8 6-2 6-1; D San-gunetti (ly bt M Knowles (Bah) 6-3 6-2.

gumént (II) bi M Knowkes (Bah) 6-3 6-2.

BRAW MEN'S OPEN (Munich) Singles, finst round: J Sjorloman (Swe) bit A Medivedev (Ukr) 2-5 6-4 6-0; G Blanco (Sp) bit S Bruguera (Sp) 6-1 7-6; C Van Garsse (Bel) bit B Steven (NZ) 7-5 6-1.

CZECH MEN'S OPEN (Fregue) Singles, first round: R Vasek (Cz Rep) bit K Kucera (Slovak) 6-2 1-6 6-2; F Vincente (Sp) bit J Bunto (Sp) 8-1 6-2. D Pessaria (Rom) bit D Prinosal (Ger) 6-3 7-5; F Meligeni (Br) bit A Chericasov (Rus) 6-4 6-3.

WTA CROATIAN OPEN (Bol. Croa) Sin-

Cheriagov (Rus) 64-63.
WTA CROATIAN OPEN (Bol, Cros) Singles, first round: A Maurestro (Fr) bt N Vaidyansthan (Ind) 6-17-5; S Talaga (Cros) bt S Plactice (Aut) 1-6-6-2-6-2; T Krozan (Sloven) bt Fang L (Cro) 6-4-6-1; T Rostoda (Sloven) bt Fang L (Cro) 6-4-6-1; T Rostoda (Sloven) bt Fang L (Cro) 6-4-6-1; T Rostoda (Sloven) bt Fang L (Cro) 6-7-6-1; L Ghrand-Rubb (Fr) bt J Kossanic (Cros) 7-5-7-6-4; R Sandu (Rom) bt Y Studenkova (Slovak) 3-6-4-6-1; S Kleinova (Cz Rep) bt L Rostonbarg (Aus) 7-6-8-7-5. Dez (Sp) bt M Fitipans (Ur) 5-2-6-4.
WTA HAMBURG OPEN Singles, first round: J Haland (Fr) bt W Probat (Gor) 6-4-6-4; E Lohovisone (Fas) bt S Appelmans (Ba) 6-0-3-6-6-0; H Nagyona (Slovak) bt S Ribowski (Fr) 6-1-5-7-6-3; M Serra (Sp) bt S Klossei (Gor) 7-6-8-0; J Caprizin (US) bt F Labat (Arg) 6-2-6-4.

Today's fixtures

7.30 unless stated FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Footbail

FIRST DIVISION
Middlesbrough v Wolves (7.45)
GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE
Famborough v Cheltenham (7.45)

Dantford v Cheimstord (745), Yaté v Férêhem (745). UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Kempston v Spalding; St UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Bridport v Mangotsfield: Chippenham

MORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Athenon Colleges v Nantwich Division: Atherion Collegies v Nantwich.
INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: King's Norton v Wednessleid.
JRWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premider Division (745): Februsone v Wrodhem: Woodbridge v Susbury Wanderets.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Division: Durston Federation
v Pennth: Larnow v Connect, Morgeth v RTM
Newcasde, Tow Law v Bedängton Terriers. Newcesde, Tow Law v Bedington Tenters.
LEAGUE OF WALES: Coervarion v TNS
Lansentinad (749): Conwy v Bengor City
PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Leads v Liverpool (70) ar Halifa Town); Notlingten Forest v Manchester Und (70): Tranmere v Stoke (70) First Division: Othern v
Huddersfeld (70); Pon Vale v Mittileshrough
(70); Second Division: Bansley v Burrley
(70); Beginpool v Bradford City (70); Carfels
v Lincoln (70); Sriffeld Und v Stockport County (70): Windowship v Brachfele (70); Vors. v

Strewsbury (70). Third Division: Wigen of Chesterfield (70). AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Arseral v West Ham (20), Charl-ton v Porismouth (20); Ipswich v Cheises (70), Southampion v Wimbledon; Walford v Swin-don Trains Rugby League SECOND DIVISION: Bramley v Lancashire Lyna (7.45).

Rugby Union ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP ONE: Harlequins v Saracens (7.30); Wasps v Leicester (7.45) TENNENT'S PREMIERSHIP Division 28: Preston Lodge v Biggar (730). Speedway

ELITE LEAGUE: King's Lynn v Coventry

SNOOKER: Embassy World Championship (at the Crucible Theatre, Shelfield).

SPEEDWAY STAR CUP: Poole v Ipsynchi 1730). HONDA CHALLENGE: Hull v Peterborough (730) Other sports

Football

By Catherine Riley

THE ROW over the sale of World Cup tickets rumbles on. with fans who tried to buy tickets yesterday being told all England's games are sold out, despite chase was allowed to go ahead. the organisers making about 69,000 additional tickets available

through the telephone hotline. Although supporters that got

available for 33 of the 55 first and will be distributed to the official second-round games, there were supporters' club. none for England matches. Some fans complained that where they have been able to buy England tickets, if they gave an English adtish address was given, the pur-

The Football Association have been allocated more tickets for England's opening from Britain in the first hour afthrough were told tickets were match against Tunisia, but they ter the line opened yesterday.

There were more than 2.2million calls from France to the hotline yesterday, compared with just 60,000 from the rest of the dress, they were then told there world, figures partly explained by were none available, but if a Scot-restrictions on overseas calls into the French telephone system. British Telecom reported that 50,000 attempted calls - half from Scotland - were made

seems you can't give away tickets is Stuttgart. Chelsea's European Cup-Winners' Cup final opponents have returned 11,000 of the 12,000 tickets offered to them. Chelsea have already been allotted their own allocation of 12,000 tickets for the match at the 34,000-canacity stadium in Stock-

sold double that amount. Stuttgart were entitled to the same amount of seats but have

holm on 13 May and could have

have been returned for general sale to the Swedish Football Association, who as hosts had already received 6,000 seats.

Glenn Hoddle is to sue Uri Geller for libel and malicious falsehood, his solicitors announced yesterday, and the England coach is seeking aggravated and exemplary damages, which could run into six figures, should the case go in his favour.

East Yorkshire is the latest

Dons chairman, Sam Hammam, has spoken to his Hull Briton Colin Toal City counterpart, David Lloyd. about the chances of the Londoners moving to Yorkshire, although both have dismissed

talk of a possible merger. Keith Blunt, a former coach of England's Under-16 team and a technical official within the FA, has been appointed coach of the Chinese Olympic

assistant coach and fellow

Leeds announced yesterday that they are to launch their own television station. The club also plans to increase the capacity of Elland Road to 45,000, by spending around £10m refurbishing the West Stand and

adding an additional tier. Investment column, page

Hodgson pursues Monaco's Djetou

ROY HODGSON is keen intake Martin Djetou, a Monaco defender, to Blackburn Revert following his impressive per formance against Manchester United in the Champions

League quarter-finals. Dicton, who is likely to cost Rovers 14m, was watched by Hodgson's assistant, Tony Parkes, when he played in France at the weekend. The player, who was born in the Ivory Coast, can play either as a centre-back or as a middleld anchor man, (wo areas where the Rovers countries tooking to mprove his team.

us frees des

piot Britons

Mardi Grat

brothers he

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Hodgaco, white apparently has about \$15 m to spend, has also been all likely in his search for new players after black burn's peck too of flower towards.

transfer to Breston took and other braine turn yesterday. The Gosdison Park chairman delinion, told the Scottish strikes first he has blocked his 13 5m more from Queen's Park Rangers and plans to review his renegotiate his contract if Everon are relegated. Folmson postponed the

move because he does not want to spend £1.5m and give the player a three-year £10,000 a week deal if the club are in the First Division. Spencer thought he would be joining Everton yesterday after he was given the all clear following medicals to check into a heart murmur.

The striker was unavailable for comment last night. Kendall, who was in Greece yesterday. was shocked by the chairman's decision after he had promised the player that the deal would be completed.

George Graham, who wants a new partner for his leading scorer, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, as Rod Wallace plans to leave Leeds on a free transfer in summer, has been watching Europe's leading scorer, Vitesse Arnhem's Nikos Mahlas. The Leeds manager wants to sign the Greek international, who scored his 33rd goal of the season against the Dutch champions, Ajax, on Sunday, with Graham in the stands.

ine 24-year an agreement in his contract allowing him to leave at a fixed price of about £3m. He was a regular scorer for OFI in Crete and has scored 11 goals in 36 internationals, but he has come to the fore with his fine season for Vitesse.

White unable to unleash the whirlwind

Snooker

By Guy Hodgson at The Crucible. Sheffield

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN was not quite in the same league as in the division below and was heading for the play-offs. To meet Jimmy White at the Embassy World Championship this vear makes you about as popular as the plague. Make that less popular if you

actually beat him, and O'Sullivan has every chance of doing that today. After the first sesleads 7-1 and needs just six frames out of 17 this morning and tonight. White needs something close to a miracle. To explain the Whirlwind's

popularity is to examine the peculiar taste of the nation, because no one could describe him as the typical eleaner-than-detergent hero. It is as if Britain got fed up with the Gary Linekers and Bobby Charltons of this world and decided to sample a darker figure. The 35-year-old White has experimented with most vices and he, in turn, has become a vice we all like to indulge in. A television audience of 6.5

times but never won, beat Darren Morgan in the second for a second-round match on a Sunday evening, and yesterday runner-up so many times the 45th of the tournament.

feeling has turned to something deeper.

Particularly as no one gave him an earthly of doing well this time as he had to qualify just to reach the Crucible and had the misfortune to draw Stephen the man who shot Bambi's Hendry in the first round. Add mother yesterday - but he was a win over his nemesis in the 1990s, however, to a run of misfortune that has included the death of his mother and brother and being declared bankrupt last year - and never has the White bandwagon been so packed with support. That was apparent as the

master of ceremonies Alan Hughes announced the players sion of their quarter-final he vesterday afternoon. "Peter Ebdon", polite applause: "Mark Williams", ditto; "Jimmy White", hold on to the roof. You would not think the words "Come on Jimmy" could be turned into anything other than encouragement - but, when 950 people do it out of sync and in a confined space, it became spine-tingly intimidating.

Even Hughes, who makes a mistake about once a decade, appeared nervous, calling it a second-round match but he recovered gloriously to decorner.

You did not envy O'Sullivan the other table. round, a phenomenal figure having to confront this wall of The country likes the loser as tise. He should have been a bag much as it distrusts a winner and of nerves, instead he casually White has fulfilled the unlucky rolled in a century break, the

White won the next after he trapped his opponent behind the yellow and let him foul three times, but then the match completely went away from the script. O'Sullivan made it 2-1 with a break of 85 and then just waited to pounce on any errors. The 22-year-old seventh seed can be profligate himself, but on this occasion he had a ruth-

lessness about him. White, meanwhile, was not playing well and knew it. At one point he lightly stamped his foot on the floor as another chance was blown; for most of the session he sat in his chair, playing with his hair or taking a drag on

Then came an insight as to why he is so popular. A loveable rogue he may be, but noone would ever dispute his honesty on a snooker table and, when he missed a pink into the corner pocket and accidentally touched a ball with the rest in his disappointment, he called himself for a foul. The referee had not seen the offence, he could have got away with it, but his code of conduct would not allow him.

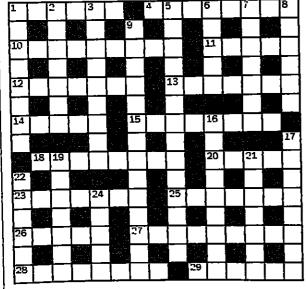
While White was being honscribe White as "the Rolls- est to the the point of speedy Royce of snooker rolling back self-destruction. Peter Ebdon the years". Sadly the bonnet was and Mark Williams were locked million watched White, who up and he was calling for a tow in a far slower contest, their has reached the final here six almost before he got round the eight frames taking three hours compared to the 95 minutes on

White might go quickly toopposition, but he wandered day, but, as Williams had only into the arena as if he had just a 5-3 lead at the end of his the BBC showed every shot live. come in off the street to prac-marathon with Ebdon, the suspicion is that this match will linger far longer before the winner is decided.

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In control: Ronnie O'Sullivan contemplates his next shot against Jimmy White yesterday. Photograph: Eric Whitehead

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Pa can't manage a snooze

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Army (5) 12 Scottish cakes served in cafes (7) 13 Topical, tropical air (7)

14 Works in the ring, we hear? (5) 15 Churchwarden's stock,

possibly (4-4) 18 Small songhird's passion in nothern river (8)

20 City oversized, also known as port (5)

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11 Reveille in the Territorial 28 Page title in Shakespeare? (8) Menace in timbers boring

DOWN 1 Notes in-and-out in busi- 21 ness? (4.4) Defeat utterly, arranging 22 Worker over border in

no truce (7) States things (9) Replacing generator on inspectorial round (2.4.8) 6 Greek trouble to provide platter (5)

7 Templar playing squash 8 Elgar's D minor varia-

tion? (6) Deception by means of imitation facade (5.9) 16 Plimsoll line creator? (9)

Risky game, taking taxi back with weight of precious stones (8) 19 Shaded seats on a Jumbo

Examiner of books, one hears (7)

country air (6) 24 Plant growing more quickly with head removed (5)

Pugh turns the heat on elite clubs team represented by English the board's game regulations ulations, that union puts at risk upheaval and it seems ludi-

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

SENIOR delegates of the International Rugby Board, the governing body whose laughable mishandling of the shift to professionalism helped plunge European rugby into the chaos from which it is now attempting to extricate itself, yesterday wheeled out the heavy artillery recalcitrant Premiership clubs.

The IRB, shaken by the topflight clubs' decision to mount a European Commission challenge to existing regulations concerning primacy of player contracts, international release dates and negotiating rights over broadcasting and sponsorship deals, have ordered 82 member unions and associations to relinquish contact with any

First Division Rugby, the clubs umbrella organisation. Significantly, the move comes just three days before the scheduled completion of peace talks between the RFU and its clubs.

Vernon Pugh, the IRB chairman, confirmed the Rugby Football Union had been summoned to a meeting in Dublin on 18 May to explain its alleged tardiness in bringing the clubs in an effort to subdue England's to heel. "If certain people are not prepared to abide by rules or try to effect desired changes other than through the democratic process within the IRB and their own union, they have no place within the official structure and nor has any union that accepts or accedes to such a challenge," said the influential Welshman in his best lawyerese.

by Union, which has led the international uproar over the activities of the English clubs. The rugby world outside Eng-land finds it difficult to comprehend why problems caused by a small group of individuals,

whose declared intent is to de-

stroy the existing governance of

the game, have not been resolved," he said. The IRB and its member unions have been excessively patient in allowing the RFU sufficient time to achieve management of its own internal affairs. There is no room for fudging the issue when constituent members are taking action against you. It is time to govern. If there is a serious or Pugh's comments were supported by Dick McGruther, any union in respect of IRB reg-

committee chairman and a its membership of the board and member of the Australian Rug- all the privileges attached to it." Theoretically, at least, that

last comment held out the possibility of England's expulsion from international competition, including next year's World Cup. In reality, though, any such measure is so unlikely as to border on the unimaginable. England, which has the biggest television audience of any competing nation, will host one of the tournament pools and banishment would cause massive commercial consequences.

There was no immediate official response from the RFU, but senior figures expressed astonishment at the heavyhandedness of the IRB stance. "At the end of the day, regulations have to be sustainable in law," said one. "Soccer went through this with the Bosman

crous that England should be threatened with the big stick. simply because the clubs have made a perfectly legal application to the EC."

Doug Ash, the EFDR chief executive, was equally flabbergasted. "We're disappointed by the timing and nature of this announcement," he said. "We believe several of the IRB laws to be anti-competitive and, therefore, that they cannot be applied in Europe.

"The reality is that European rugby is different from that in other parts of the world, because we are governed by EC laws. The French Federation and the French government have already recognised the need to give clubs freedom to act in a sensible commercial

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